

THE PRINCESS OF
PLANET XERONIS

SCREENPLAY BY BENJAMIN NKOMO
ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK SERIES OF THE SAME NAME

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(DARKNESS)

(TEXT: I... will speak unto him in a dream.

Numbers 12:6 KJV)

FADE IN:

EXT. PLANET XERONIS, WOODS - DAY

She (**NANCY, 17-YEAR-OLD BLONDE GIRL**) flies past a dense forest on her **FLYING BIKE**, unknowingly observed by a **DREADLOCKED MAN (30'S)** and two **LARGE GREY WOLVES**. The wolves are restless but the man calms them with a hand gesture.

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

A sea of bright stars.

NARRATOR (VOICE OF A 12 YEAR OLD BOY, NERDY) (V.O)

Alien abductions usually start with the sighting of something magnificent in the sky.

EXT. PLANET EARTH, SOUTHERN AFRICA, MOUNTAIN RANGE - NIGHT

BEN (23, AFRICAN), a young modern-day adventurer is camping under a clear, star-filled sky. Suddenly, a **WORMHOLE** emerges in the sky. A small **FLYING CRAFT**, bright with lights, shoots out of the vortex and heads towards Earth.

NARRATOR (CONT'D) (V.O)

Then... alien spacecraft and great lights.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

The craft lands without crashing. Ben, driven by curiosity, races towards it. He hides behind a tree and spies at the strange vehicle, resembling a bike, and its rider, a **BLONDE GIRL** in a golden outfit.

NARRATOR (CONT'D) (V.O)

Humanoid beings...

The girl uses a flashlight-like device to turn an owl and a frog into particles that vanish into her gadget. Distracted by a rodent, she leaves her vehicle behind.

NARRATOR (CONT'D) (V.O)

Alien tech...

Ben moves closer to the vehicle, throws a rock at it, and discovers a repulsive force field. He places his hand on a glowing groove on the vehicle, gets stuck, and then is released. The vehicle flashes a light at him, turning him into particles that are absorbed into a GLASS CYLINDER on the back.

EXT. PLANET EARTH, WORMHOLE - CONTINUOUS

NARRATOR (V.O)

And, a victim.

The girl returns, mounts her bike, and ascends towards the shrinking wormhole, oblivious to the red light flashing at the back of her vehicle. Ben, now trapped inside the vehicle, watches helplessly as the Earth disappears from view.

INT. PLANET XERONIS, WORMHOLE - NIGHT

The flying bike emerges on the other side of the tunnel, revealing a new planet with different star constellations and TWO FULL MOONS in the sky. Ben gazes at this new world in awe and terror.

EXT. PLANET XERONIS, THE ONIS KINGDOM, WOODS - NIGHT

NANCY shuts down the vehicle and alights. She has an AUDIO RECORDER around her left hand that looks like a wrist watch. She presses the recorder and brings it to her mouth while she gives her back to the bike. Still she does not see Ben.

NANCY (in Xeronian)

Beautiful planet. I'll have to go again.

CUT TO:

INT. GLASS CYLINDER - CONTINUOUS

Ben watches as the alien girl comes to the bike and take the 'infamous' flash light. Then he sees her release the small animals she abducted from Earth by beaming them out the way she

had flashed them in. She moves back to the bike to check the controls. Ben waits. She discovers him and is in obvious shock.

BACK TO:

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Moving to the controls, Nancy punches in a code. The head light flashes and scans Ben out. He stands his real size, restored.

NANCY

(in Xeronian, confusion written all over her face)

Who are you and where did you come from?

He ignores her strange language and scans the surroundings.

NANCY (in Xeronian)

Why are you not answering?

A beautiful DRAGON (**WONDERBEE, 2, PURPLE SCALES**) flies by and hovers. Ben backs away in fright, and then he takes off. The dragon follows. The girl is calling for him to stop but he is not listening.

CUT TO

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

As Ben is running, he steps into a snare and is hoisted into the air, knocking his head violently on a tree. He goes unconscious.

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN:

EXT. PLANET XERONIS, WOODS - NIGHT

Ben's eyes flutter open, Nancy kneels before him. He's propped against a tree. He tries to sit up, she stops him. She holds a BLOOD-SOAKED CLOTH, wiping his nose. Panic sets in as memories of the monster flood back. He jerks back, but she restrains him.

NANCY (in Xeronian)

Do not get up just yet.

Ben calms when he sees they are alone.

BEN

Lady, I don't understand a word you're saying.

NANCY

Oh... should have said so from the start.

BEN

(holds his head which is throbbing with pain)
What happened?

(takes the stained cloth from her hand)

NANCY

You need to pay attention where you step.

BEN

I ran because of what I saw. What was that thing?

NANCY

Thing? Oh no, that was my friend.

(looks over his shoulder, gazing behind the tree, to Wonderbee)

You can come out now.

Ben turns, sees the DRAGON, not as large as he first thought but still intimidating. Nancy rises and pats her on the head.

WONDERBEE

(in a teenager's voice)

Who is he?

NANCY

I still don't know. We weren't even introduced yet.

(turns to Ben and clears throat)

I am Princess Nancy... but you can just call me Nancy.

(curtsies)

And this is Wonderbee.

(points to the dragon beside her)

Ben does not say anything, clearly not at ease.

NANCY (CONT'D)

There is no need to be frightened. What's your name?

BEN

(rising)

My name... I um, my name is Ben.

NANCY

A pleasure. Now, where are you from?

BEN

I'm from Beitbridge town.

NANCY

I mean, are you from this planet?

BEN

Eh...? If you mean planet Earth, then obviously.

Nancy's hand flies to rest on her open mouth.

WONDERBEE

(excitedly)

An Earthling...!

(to Nancy)

Why did you bring him here?

NANCY

Didn't mean to. He touched my bike and got zapped.

WONDERBEE

(to Ben, accusing)

Were you trying to jack her ride?

BEN

(introspectively)

I must be dreaming. A lucid dream, perhaps?

NANCY

(shakes her head)

No... it's not those. You are on my planet now, planet Xeronis. Earth should be...

(racks her brains)

Well, the physics is complicated. You are a long way from home though.

BEN

(skeptical and looking at the trees)

Doesn't look like another planet at all.

NANCY

Trees, yes, are just trees.

Ben looks up into the starry sky and is amazed to see two moons. A puppy, (**SPOT, 3 MONTHS, Jack Russell Terrier**), darts out from the bushes and pounces onto Ben's leg. He bites Ben's trouser.

BEN

What the... ho, who's dog is this? Get it off me.
Let go boy!

NANCY

Spot...? Let him go!

(the puppy stops growling to listen)

Let him go.

(he obeys)

And this adorable one is Spot.

SPOT

Hi, and sorry about that.

Ben is thrown off to hear a dog speak.

BEN

You talk?

SPOT

Yes. I blabber, whisper and sing, but do not stutter.
And I can't whistle. Already tried.

Spot wags his tail. Nancy takes him up into her arms.

NANCY

Spot, meet Ben from Beitbridge. He comes from Planet Earth.

WONDERBEE

She brought him here for show off.

NANCY

(gasps)

I did not!

SPOT

But I'm sure he's just passing through, right?

NANCY

About that...

WONDERBEE

Bounty hunters will make sport of him if he stays.

SPOT

(observing Ben critically)

He doesn't seem like he'll last very long.

WONDERBEE

How do you think they'll judge him? Hack his head off?

SPOT

No... they'll send him to the arena for the blood games.

NANCY

(seeing Ben's fear returning)

Guys, cut it out. You're scaring him.

BEN

What are they saying?

Nancy opens her mouth to speak.

(PAUSE WORLD TIME) :

NARRATOR (V.O)

As Ben soon learns, going to another world uninvited has consequences.

(PAN TO SPOT)

NARRATOR (V.O) (CONT'D)

The puppy explains that the kingdom executes aliens.

(PAN TO WONDERBEE)

NARRATOR (V.O) (CONT'D)

The dragon tells him 'there is nowhere to run and nowhere to hide'.

(PAN TO NANCY)

NARRATOR (V.O) (CONT'D)

The princess cannot restrain her two friends from putting the fear of God into Ben.

(BACK TO WONDERBEE)

NARRATOR (V.O) (CONT'D)

The portal to send him back can only be opened by a switch inside the palace in a room called 'The Study'.

(RESUME WORLD TIME) :

BEN

Take me back.

NANCY

I can't.

(Ben obviously doesn't understand her answer so,)

'The Study' is restricted and only approved by the Council. I'd be dreaming to think they'd approve me.

(sighs)

2 weeks... In 2 weeks, I get a pass to enter 'The Study' and then open the portal.

BEN

2 weeks? Then, what should I do in the meantime?

NANCY

Stay out of sight till I wrap my head around this.

Ben collapses back into the tree and sits in thought.

NANCY

I must get back to the palace. I am already late.

WONDERBEE

And you are leaving him with whom exactly?

(she didn't even need to ask)

Me...?

BEN

(looks up, troubled)

You plan to leave me alone, with a dragon?

NANCY

Don't worry - you are not on her food chain.

WONDERBEE

(disgusted)

You think I'm going to eat you? I'm a vegetarian.

BEN

The only dragons I know are fairy-tales.

WONDERBEE

No name calling!

NANCY

I knew you would get along.

Nancy has safely mounted her flying bike with Spot in a pet carrier bag. They are about 12 feet off the ground.

BEN

(rising, wanting her to stay)

You are leaving, already?

NANCY

I'll be back... with a more elaborate plan.

(steering the bike, ignoring his pleas)

See you later.

SPOT

(calls out)

Till next time, Earthling!

She flies off with Spot. Ben and Wonderbee watch them go.

EXT. THE KINGDOM OF ONIS, ONIS CAPITAL CITY, CITY WALLS - NIGHT

Nancy, hooded, steers the flying bike into a highway of similar vehicles, heading towards the city. The city walls loom ahead, black bricks, white, phosphorescent mortar, fifty meters tall. The city is a blend of magic and technology, with a medieval appearance, well-lit by luminous crystals. Various species of Xeronians inhabit it.

EXT. PALACE, ROYAL GARDEN - NIGHT

Nancy lands her bike at a spot near the royal garden.

INT. PALACE - CONTINUOUS

All is silent, everyone asleep except for scattered guards. Nancy reaches her room unseen.

INT. PALACE, NANCY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SPOT

We make it unnoticed again.

Spot wipes his feet and then leaps into his cradle next to Nancy's large bed while she hurries into her big closet.

NANCY (O.S)

We are professionals.

SPOT

This is a first... coming back with a human like that.

NANCY (O.S)

You must not tell a living soul.

SPOT

Do you think you can keep him a secret?

NANCY (O.S)

Have to. He is my responsibility.

She comes out of the closet in white sleeping gown. She gets in her blankets and bids Spot a good night. Then she reaches over and switches off her lamp. Room goes dark.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Ben rests under a tree, a fire started by Wonderbee keeping him warm. He dozes off as Wonderbee settles for sleep a safe distance away.

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN:

EXT. THE KINGDOM OF ONIS, ONIS CAPITAL CITY - MORNING

A new day dawns on planet Xeronis and upon the kingdom of Onis.

INT. PALACE, GREAT STAIRS - MORNING

Nancy is hurrying up the great stairs with Spot following closely behind when she meets her father, **KING GORDON (60)**, who is making his way down in the company of his **FOUR CHIEF ADVISORS**.

Nancy runs into her father's embrace and delights him. He releases her so he can look at her face.

KING GORDON

I am told you disappeared from the library yesterday?

NANCY

Oh, about that... I had a little adventure in mind.

KING GORDON

An adventure too important to study law and history?

NANCY

I know our history; you tell me every day.

(PAN TO SPOT)

Spot hurries along and leaves Nancy behind. He goes up the stairs to the third floor and enters the hallway there.

INT. PALACE, THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Spot starts scratching the first door he comes upon. **AUNT JOSEPHINE (44)**, a lady wearing reading glasses opens her door and is about to hurl insults but sees no one there.

SPOT

Good morning, aunty.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(looking down and realizing who it is)

Oh... Spot. Good morning.

Spot forces himself into her room and causes her to chuckle.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(looking out in the hallway)

Where is that headstrong niece of mine?

SPOT (O.S)

On her way.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(mischievously)

Care for a biscuit?

Aunt Josephine shuts the door of her chambers.

CUT TO:

INT. PALACE, GREAT STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Nancy parts with her father and she has 2 bodyguards, heavily armed brown-furred **ERECT APES**, trailing her. She gets in the hallway of the third floor and gets in the first door she comes upon, slamming the door shut in the guards' faces.

INT. AUNT JOSEPHINE'S CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Aunt Josephine, sitting on her bed, looks up from her book.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

At least sensible ones are civil enough to knock.

NANCY

(she looks at the door behind her and then back at her aunt)
Not you too.

Nancy sits beside her while she remains glued to her book.

NANCY

(BEAT)

I found Earth.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

I know.

NANCY

You do? I only found out after my return. I'll have to re-open the portal again.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

I know.

(looks at her)

But 2 weeks is a long time given the very interesting souvenir you brought back.

NANCY

Who told you that?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

I have my sources.

NANCY

I don't believe this. Spot? Come out this instance.

Spot crawls out from under the bed, chuckles sheepishly. Her aunt sets her book down.

NANCY

You told her about Ben?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Oh, he has a name?

NANCY

(to Spot)

We made a promise. How could you...? Wait.

(thoughtfully, concluding)

She spiked you. What did you eat, a cookie?

SPOT

(mutters)

It wasn't a cookie.

NANCY

(faces her aunt)

Please don't be mad at me.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

That's an understatement, young lady. Abduction?

NANCY

I wouldn't call it that.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

What If they find out? I'll be years explaining this.

(mourns with her head in her hand)

Why do I let you out of my sight?

Nancy rises and strolls around the room.

NANCY

They won't find out. I'll keep him hidden.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

How's he? And, what's his age?

SPOT

He is some tall boy.

NANCY

(seeing her aunt horrified, interjects)
He is a young man! My age.

(to Spot)

Whose side are you on anyway?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

For now, mine. Can't you stay still for 24 hours?

NANCY

16! Earth is your second home so, now you can visit.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

I hate flying.

NANCY

Well, I love it.

(smiling)

Isn't this great? A fellow Earthling like you... here with us on Xeronis. I wonder what sort of stories he'll tell me?

Then she goes to open the door.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Hm... Hey, aren't you forgetting someone?

Spot wags his tail while moving towards the door.

NANCY

Oh, hell no! Not after this display.

SPOT

(genuine concern)

But I'll tell her about the traps.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

What traps?

Nancy scoops him up into her arms and then shuts the door.

INT. PALACE, GREAT STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Two guards are following Nancy downstairs.

EXT. PALACE, PARKADE - CONTINUOUS

Nancy moves to mount her bike with Spot in his pet carrier bag. One of the guards clears his throat and she looks at them.

NANCY

Better take the morning off, gentlemen.

She takes off as the guards desperately try to follow, but the remaining bikes won't even start their engines.

EXT. ONIS METROPOLITAN DISTRICT, FLAT 20, ROOF - MORNING

Nancy lands her flying bike on top of one of the tallest buildings in the area. She has a card that unlocks the door on the roof that grants her access into the building.

INT. FLAT 20, ROOM 125 - CONTINUOUS

Nancy unlocks the door and enters her room. She heads straight for her wardrobe and begins to change into common clothing. She ruffles her hair before a MIRROR.

EXT. ONIS METROPOLITAN DISTRICT, FLAT 20, ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Nancy returns to the roof to fetch her bike. Spot is waiting for her here. Now they can leave the city incognito.

EXT. WOODS - MORNING

Ben is still asleep near the smoldering ash of the fire.

(DOLLY IN TOWARDS HIS CLOSED EYES)

DREAM START:

EXT. WOODS - MORNING (CONT'D)

(DOLLY OUT AND PAN TO REVEAL BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE)

Ben, in his dream body, stands above his sleeping self.
Everything in the dream is a replica of the Xeronis forest.

BEN

(looking at his translucent arms)

A dream...?

Ben starts rising into the air as gravity's hold becomes lax. He levitates above tree height levels. He turns towards the city.

(LANDSCAPE AND TREES RETREAT AND THE CITY IS PUSHED FARTHER AND FARTHER AWAY)

Ben is suddenly being driven backwards by an invisible force. Turning, he zips past trees.

EXT. GROVE, MANSION MATTHIAS - DAY

Ben comes to stand before a huge old mansion, (**MANSION MATTHIAS**). He looks around and sees SLEEPING DOGS in the shade of the trees. The force is pushing him again taking him through the walls and inside the mansion.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, FIRST FLOOR, PASSAGE WAY - CONTINUOUS

He is set before a LEVER in a wall. He stares at it for a bit.

BEN

(pulling down the lever)

What does this do?

Immediately, chain gates slide down from the ceiling along the passage, room-length apart, and lock free access to the passage. Ben is pushed upwards by the force and has to go through the ceiling like a ghost.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, SECOND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

On the second floor, Ben is placed before another LEVER. He pulls it and a large iron block hidden in the wall shoots out with blinding speed stopping only an inch from the window. That surprised Ben. He is pushed upward again through the ceiling.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, THIRD FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

This time, he is brought to a BUTTON in the wall. When he pushes the button, the floor where he is standing on is a trap door which immediately falls open and puts Ben in free fall towards the bottom which is all the way towards the ground floor.

(TRACK TO BEN WHO IS IN FREE FALL)

There is uninterrupted fall distance towards SPEARS arranged in a circle on the ground floor. He is about to be impaled.

DREAM END

EXT. WOODS - MORNING

Ben opens his eyes. Spot is licking his face.

NANCY

(bending over him)

You sleep like a baby.

Wonderbee is standing paces away and already wide awake.

BEN

You came back?

(relieved, he removes Spot from his face and sits straight)

NANCY

Of course. What weird thing were you thinking?

(goes to stand with Wonderbee)

How was it with Wonderbee?

BEN

I'm still in one piece.

WONDERBEE

(not amused)

Hahaha...!

NANCY

You'll grow on each other.

SPOT

Obviously, until she starts coughing up burnt bones.

BEN

(smiling, to Spot)

You are very funny.

NANCY

We have to find you some lodgings. Nothing fancy..

(she moves to mount her bike)

Come Spot.

(Spot runs into his carrier bag, looks at Ben)

You too.

Ben rides with her despite his initial hesitation. They take off with Wonderbee following close behind.

EXT. SKY, FLYING BIKE - CONTINUOUS

They fly over valleys and barren highlands.

EXT. GROVE - CONTINUOUS

They veer into new territory.. into a grove. They fly past some river and moments later, have come before an old mansion.

EXT. GROVE, MANSION MATTHIAS - CONTINUOUS

The mansion stands an imposing three floors in the midst of tall trees. Ben stands mouth agape before the mansion.

BEN

Am I dreaming?

NANCY

(stopping to face him)

Again with that? You need to accept this as reality.

BEN

(looking around)

Where are the dogs?

(Nancy looks at him funny)

NANCY

Stay here. I'll go check for them inside.

Then the three friends leave him in fascination of the mansion and they enter inside. A moment pass. A cracking sound comes

from the thicket behind him. Ben turns around and sees a GROUP OF DOGS emerging from the bushes. There are different breeds mixed in the group. They perceive him as an intruder and therefore they are advancing toward him, growling with hostility. They have thrust him into their circle now.

MATTHIAS

Stop!

Ben turns to look to the door and he sees a large Great Dane, **MATTHIAS (10)**, walk out with Nancy, Spot and Wonderbee behind.

MATTHIAS (CONT'D)

He's a guest.

Matthias speaks in the voice of grown man. The dogs then slowly retreat back into the woods. Nancy comes to him as he sighs.

NANCY

I want you to meet Matthias. Matthias meet Ben.

(Matthias bows his head slightly)

He'll be your companion till I open the portal.

BEN

It's a pleasure to meet you, Matthias.

MATTHIAS

Just treat me as you'd treat a friend. I'll show you in when you are ready.

Matthias turns and heads to wait by the door.

NANCY

I'm afraid we won't be joining you. Palace duties.

(Ben nods, his attention fixed on the mansion)

I am curious though. How did you know about the dogs?

(Ben looks at her but she knows something, stresses)

You did know.

BEN

I had this dream this morning... that I'd come here, to this mansion and meet a couple of dogs. Don't know how to explain it. It was too accurate.

(Nancy wants to say something but he interjects)

I know. You're free not to believe me.

NANCY

I believe. You're not the first dream-walker I've met.

BEN

Dream-walker...? What's that?

NANCY

(draws closer, studying him, intrigued)
That was fast. You are manifesting innate magic.

BEN

Excuse me... magic?

NANCY

Yes. Here, we have that too.
(chuckles after seeing his face)
Tell you more tomorrow. Matthias will show you to the garden at the back. There are a lot of fruits there to choose from. None are poisonous.

Ben nods again, grateful.

CUT TO:

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, SECOND FLOOR, ROOM - DAY

Ben enters a dusty room that hasn't been cleaned in ages. Matthias stands on the door. He pulls a sheet off the bed, dust rises like a cloud to fill the room. Ben looks at Matthias with a scolding look, but this is pretty normal for the dog.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS, GARDEN - SUNSET

Ben is in the backyard garden, picking a red pear. He washes it under an artificial fountain and takes a bite. He looks around at the setting sun.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, BEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ben has tidied up his room and set up the bed on which he now rests in. He can't sleep. There is howling outside so he switches on his bed LANTERN and comes to look out the window.

There is an obvious commotion outside as he sees the dogs running around.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - CONTINUOUS

Ben steps outside the mansion, looking into the dark woods. A shadow moves. It stands up, revealing itself as a seven-foot-tall, bipedal wolf (**WOLF#1**). The creature howls, and other howls answer. Ben runs back into the mansion.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS - CONTINUOUS

The doors are knocked hard. The impact forces open both doors and throws Ben paces back who had been leaning against them. He crashes on his belly and before he can rise, the wolf stands above him. It lowers its muzzle and saliva drips from the grinning teeth to wet the floor before Ben's eyes. Ben lies still, paralyzed with fear. Charging, more footsteps. Wolf#1 raises his head and FIVE DOGS pounce on him. Their force drives Wolf#1 back and Ben crawls away. The dogs sink their teeth into Wolf#1's sides and back, and he fights to shake them off. Ben gets to the base of the stairs and looks back to see Wolf#1 grab one dog and continue to swing him against the door. Then he is reaching for the dog on his back.

MATTHIAS

(standing before Ben)

Go upstairs!

Ben runs up the stairs. Glass shatters as another wolf, **WOLF#2**, forces his way inside through the windows. He rolls and then stands before Matthias who growls and attacks him. Wolf#1 throws the dogs back and his eyes fly to rest on Ben who stands halfway up the stairs, watching the show, horrified. Wolf#1 charges him again and Ben runs up.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, FIRST FLOOR, PASSAGE - CONTINUOUS

Wolf#1 throws himself up and sends himself digging his claws on the ledge of the first floor directly in front of Ben who skid to a stop. Ben turns around to run the other way. The beast climbs over and follows Ben into the next chamber.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, GROUND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Other dogs come to the assistance of Matthias and Wolf#2 is quick to see his disadvantage. He throws Matthias paces back, slams one dog who is still in the air aiming for his throat, and then he races outside through the open doors.

MATTHIAS

After him!

The other dogs pursue Wolf#2.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - CONTINUOUS

Wolf#2 turns around the mansion and then he leaps onto the walls, digging his claws into the brick. He begins climbing up. The dogs cannot follow, as they are unable to climb, and they can only bark up at him.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, FIRST FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

As Ben is running, he sees a LEVER in the wall up ahead. Remembering his dream, he lunges for the lever and pulls it down. Chain gates drop from the ceiling and create cages along the narrow passageway and Wolf#1 knocks uselessly against chain and steel.

BEN

(relief and disbelief)

They work? The levers work!

Windows shutter behind him as Wolf#2 destroys them from outside, where he had been scaling the walls with his claws, and then he enters the mansion. The battle is not over. Ben races up the stairs to the second floor as a third wolf, **WOLF#3**, bursts in as well and he eyes the fleeing human. The two wolves look at each other and then they pursue after Ben.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, SECOND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Ben leans hard against the only LEVER on this floor. Wolf#3 is knocked out of the mansion by an iron block that suddenly shoots out of the wall and he breaks glass and window as he hurtles toward the ground.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - CONTINUOUS

Wolf#3 falls like a rock but meeting the trees on his way down allows him to use his claws against a tree trunk and to break his fall. He is relatively unharmed.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, THIRD FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Ben gets to the third floor and Wolf#2 knocks into him and sends him knocking into the walls. He is turned around and Wolf#2's large hand wraps around his throat. Wolf#2 does not finish him off. Instead, he begins to shrink in size a little as his fur begins to disappear. Wolf#2 changes and becomes a man (DREADLOCKED MAN) in shorts. Ben is amazed. The man releases Ben. He sniffs in the air like a dog.

DREADLOCKED MAN

You... why do you carry this scent?

(Ben remains silent, as if seeing a ghost)

Tell me...!

Just then, Ben pushes him back and he quickly hits the BUTTON on the wall causing the trap door to open. The dread-locked man tumbles down through the floor. Ben hurries to look through the hole and he sees the man fall through the opening in the floors, shift his form into that of a wolf midair, and then land onto the concrete of the ground floor on his back.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, GROUND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

There are no spears to impale him since rust and rot had dissolved them long ago. Wolf#2 rises and limps. He then hits into the windows to fall outside, but the dogs swarm upon him. Then Wolf#2 lets out a dying wail.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - CONTINUOUS

Wolf#1 leaps out of the mansion, escaping the chain gates by entering one room, to land in the woods where he meets with Wolf#3. The two are too late to save Wolf#2 from the dogs' jaws. Wolf#1 shifts his form into a **MAN-WITH-LOCKS (30's)**.

MAN-WITH-LOCKS

(grief)

Brother...!

Wolf#3 gets down on fours and howls into the air. He then turns and disappears into the woods.

MAN-WITH-LOCKS

(to Ben who stands on a balcony, threateningly)
We'll come back for you!

The man transforms back into a wolf, and then darts back into the woods leaving behind a horrid silence.

(PAN TO BEN ON THE BALCONY)

Ben is shaking, his breathing, heavy.

(DARKNESS)

Heavy breathing.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT. ONIS CITY, PALACE - MORNING

The sun rises to grace the walled city with yet another day. The palace is lively with a lot of carriages and flying vehicles coming and leaving the parking area inside the palace's gates.

INT. PALACE, WIDE CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Come, come. Here will do.

Aunt Josephine bursts into a wide chamber with Nancy following behind, complaining, with a team of maids fixing their dresses.

NANCY

Why do they surprise us like this?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

If you knew how to be formal we wouldn't have to go to all the trouble. Thank you, girls, that will do.

The maids leave as a train of guards opens the doors and stand on ceremony. The king approaches with a tall lady, **ESMERALDA**

(36), who holds a fan in her hand. She hugs Aunt Josephine and the two greet as they are familiar with each other.

ESMERALDA

(they release each other)

It's been what, nine years?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

With Gordon for company - It's been dull without you.

KING GORDON

(laughs for being teased, then)

She's been on the road a full week at my request.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

It takes a request to get you to come see us?

ESMERALDA

Why are you treating me like I was on holiday? I supposed you'd be buried in work and I'd have nothing to do with my time.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Even Gordon needs some help now and then.

KING GORDON

And help she will.

(moves to Nancy)

You remember her, don't you? The last you saw her she was still a toddler but now she stands a fair lady.

NANCY

(curtsies)

Madam Esmeralda...

ESMERALDA

Hello dear. I hear you're causing quite a stir. Your father sent for me to come and remedy that.

Esmeralda is walking around and observing Nancy, including how she stands.

KING GORDON

Since coming of age, many eyes are upon her now. I want her lessons up and running.

NANCY

Lessons...?

KING GORDON

(to Esmeralda)

Teach her how to behave in important company and more importantly, how to address the Council.

Esmeralda stops beside the king.

KING GORDON

(to Nancy)

You are to respect Esmeralda as you respect a queen. She'll be in charge of you until I see some improvement. And that's a king's order.

NANCY

(overly dramatic)

Yes, Your Highness.

Her aunt stifles a chuckle.

ESMERALDA

Well, fair enough. We begin tomorrow. Right now, I must rest. Jose...

(smiles and curtsies)

Then the king leads her out of the room along with the king's train.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

That went well.

EXT. THE ONIS CAPITAL, CITY - DAY (LATER)

Wonderbee soars above the walls with Nancy on her back and she turns for the distant woods.

EXT. GROVE, MANSION MATTHIAS - DAY

Nancy is surprised to find no one waiting for her outside, and it is unusually quiet.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, GROUND FLOOR, STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

She bursts inside and is relieved to see Ben sitting on the foot of the stairs. Blood stains are on the floor and there is broken furniture from last night's struggle.

WONDERBEE

This does not look good.

At Ben's feet lie TEN POLES roughly two meters in length and he is sharpening their ends with a sharp HUNTER'S KNIFE in his hand.

NANCY

Is that blood?

BEN

3 wolves attacked me yesterday. The dogs killed one but the other two escaped. They can turn themselves into men! Is that normal around here?

Places one pole down on the pile of potent spears. Nancy falls silent in shock. She then looks at him helplessly.

BEN

You have the power to open the portal. Get me out of here.

She sits beside him, holds her head in thought.

NANCY

There's a procedure I must follow otherwise I'll be grounded for months.

(Ben looks down and sighs)

Wait now for these few days than to prolong your stay here if we decide to gamble and lose.

BEN

I just don't want to die on this planet.

NANCY

You are not in this alone. Do not doubt Matthias.

BEN

(sighs)

Alright. But can you tell me more about dream-walking?

NANCY

I am no expert but I could ask around. Or perhaps try to find a book for you.

BEN

That'll help.

Matthias and two dogs then enter the mansion. Nancy, Wonderbee and Ben just look at them.

(PAN TO NANCY)

Nancy has a worried look on her face.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PALACE, NANCY'S LIVING CHAMBERS - SUNSET

Nancy has a worried look as she looks out to the setting sun.

EXT. GROVE - NIGHT

TWO WOLVES are running in the cover of the trees

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, FIRST FLOOR, STAIRS - NIGHT

Ben is sitting vigilant on the stairs with a SPEAR in his hand. He is dozing and forcing himself to stay awake. His head drops down onto his chest and he does not raise it again.

(DOLLY IN)

Ben abruptly wakes to the sound of HOWLING outside the mansion. Determined, he races towards the windows.

Wolf#1 cautiously enters the mansion, stopping before a strange CARPET. He backs away and rushes back outside. Ben waits as he hears claws digging into the walls from outside.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, SECOND FLOOR PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Wolf#1 bursts into the chamber through a shattered window. Ben springs into action, thrusting his spear into the wolf's belly. The wolf wails in pain, but retaliates, striking Ben with force

and throws him paces back. Ben forces himself to rise and he sees the MAN-WITH-LOCKS from yesterday reaching for the spear that has gored his belly. Wolf#3 bursts into the chamber. Ben swiftly turns and flees, the wolf giving chase.

INT. NEXT CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Ben leaps over a gap in the floor, grabbing onto a dangling rope as Wolf#3 leaps after him. Ben swings out of reach as Wolf#3 falls, unable to grab him. Gravity pulls Wolf#3. Then he is falling down some twenty feet before he lands upon sharp and long poles that Ben had spent the whole day preparing them for this task. Wolf#3 does not survive. Ben releases the rope, landing safely on the floor.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, SECOND FLOOR PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ben rushes back, finding the MAN-WITH-LOCKS on his knees, clutching the spear he had pulled out.

MAN-WITH-LOCKS

(whispering)

Brother...?

His eyes burn with rage and madness as he shifts back into a wolf. Ben races out of the chamber, the wolf hot on his heels. They descend the staircase, the wolf preparing to pounce.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, FIRST FLOOR STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Just as Wolf#1 is about to land on Ben, Wonderbee intervenes. Wonderbee knocks the wolf into the walls, giving Ben a chance to escape. Ben watches as Wonderbee bites and swings the wolf down to the ground floor, before belching flames as a warning. Wolf#1 backs away from her, stepping onto the carpet which is actually a net.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, GROUND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Ben leaps off the stairs, grabbing a dangling rope that lowers him to the concrete floor as the net rises, trapping Wolf#1. He quickly secures the rope to a pillar, suspending the wolf mid-air. Wonderbee flies up, grabbing the net and pulling until the

rope breaks. She flies out through the doors with the wolf in tow. Ben races after her, shouting.

BEN

Wait! We need to question him!

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - CONTINUOUS

But Wonderbee is already too far to hear him, heading towards the barren country. She sets the bag on fire, dropping the wolf to its demise. Ben watches as a ball of fire falls in the distance, knowing that his wolf problem is finally over. He has survived.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, LIVING QUARTERS - DAY

Ben sits down and begins eating the food Nancy brought him. She has brought him toiletries and a change of clothes; which Ben inspects and sets aside to try on later.

NANCY

So, I take it the wolf threat is over?

BEN

Thank you for sending Wonderbee. She and the dogs saved my life.

WONDERBEE

He was doing just fine.

SPOT

(grumbling)

Why wasn't I here for the fun? I'm a better fighter.

NANCY

(smiling)

I'm sure you are, which is why you and Wonderbee are going to be staying here with Ben.

(Spot is shocked so she tries to calm him down)

For just a few days until Esmeralda gets off my case.

WONDERBEE

I don't mind staying. But this cousin of yours... there's something not right about her.

NANCY

What do you mean?

WONDERBEE

Call it bad energy. I don't trust her.

NANCY

That's a bit extreme. You don't even know her.

WONDERBEE

She is hiding something. Read her mind and find out.

NANCY

(gasps, shakes her head)

That's crossing a line.

BEN

Read her mind? How does that work exactly?

They look at Ben who is just finishing up snacking. Nancy shows Ben the emerald AMULET in her neck. It isn't just an accessory.

NANCY

My godmother gifted me this when I was still a child. When I rub the gem, tapping into some people's minds and reading secrets is child's play.

BEN

(astonished)

What kind of toys does she normally give out?

(Nancy chuckles)

Hey, how about a demonstration?

NANCY

Most people want to hide their secrets, but not you?

BEN

I am still skeptical, so take your best shot.

Nancy rubs her amulet and then her eyes start glowing.

BEN

Your eyes are glowing.

NANCY

You see my light?

(Ben nods)

NANCY

Intriguing. Even Wonderbee can't see it.

BEN

Oh... I don't know how, but I can.

(leans in)

You are beautiful.

Wonderbee faces him, and then she clears her throat loudly.

BEN

(embarrassed, to Wonderbee)

I mean, she has beautiful eyes.

Nancy retreats back into her chair.

NANCY

And I am done. One thing stands out - you are heartbroken over your first love.

SPOT

Yeah, those are hard.

WONDERBEE

The first cut is the deepest.

They all seemed to agree with this assessment.

BEN

(defensively)

Heh... seriously?

(Nancy chuckles as the light in her eyes dims and disappears)

I'm convinced. Go read your cousin. She will not be able to hide anything from you.

CUT

INT/EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS, DESTROYED BALCONY - NIGHT

Ben and Matthias are sitting on a piece of a destroyed balcony, gazing outside where Wonderbee and Spot are playing a game of tag, running around full of energy. Matthias chuckles at their antics.

INT. PALACE, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Nancy hides around a corner, just a stone's throw away from Esmeralda's chambers. Esmeralda emerges from another passage, reading a letter. She enters her room. Nancy comes to stand before the shut door, rubbing her amulet. Her eyes begin to glow, for a moment, but then they stop. She tries again, facing resistance.

CUT TO:

INT. PALACE, ESMERALDA'S CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Esmeralda unlocks a drawer and takes out a small wooden BOX CONTRAPTION. She places it on the floor and turns a key, releasing a hologram transmission. A tall caped figure in a hood, **(BELSHA 62)** looks at her.

CUT TO:

INT. PALACE, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Nancy, with her mind's eye, sees a green dome protect the door.

BACK TO:

INT. PALACE, ESMERALDA'S CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

ESMERALDA

Impossible. How could all 3 fail?

Belsha looks at the door, sensing Nancy's presence.

INSERT IMAGE: Belsha projects an image of a disembodied head into Nancy's mind. His aim is to frighten her.

CUT TO:

INT. PALACE, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Nancy backs away, startled by the momentary illusion. She abandons her mission and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. PALACE, ESMERALDA'S CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Esmeralda turns to Belsha, sensing a move of psychic power.

ESMERALDA

What just happened?

BELSHA

Your princess was spying on your door.

Esmeralda opens her door and checks. No one there. She returns. Belsha has ended the transmission so she puts the contraption away.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS, BACKYARD - MORNING

Nancy and Ben are sitting on garden chairs next to each other. She is reading a small BOOKLET written in Xeronian.

NANCY

(reading and pointing)

"The Basics to Innate Magic for Adventuring."

(flips a few pages)

"Dream-Walker. A dream-walker can experience events from the past, present, and future using dreams as a medium." Sweet...

(continues)

"They can also compress time. Seconds will flow like minutes... a minute will become like an hour."

BEN

I can what?

NANCY

(closes booklet)

This is too wordy. Practice is better. We'll explore a nearby catacomb.

(gets up from her chair with an idea in mind)

BEN

Um... among the dead?

NANCY

Scared?

She chuckles as she goes to fetch the rest of the group before he can respond. He can only smile in defeat.

EXT. CATACOMB - MORNING

They come to a sealed off catacomb. Large rocks have crumbled and blocked the entrance. They find a cool spot to sit, side by side cross-legged.

BEN

This usually kicks in when I fall asleep.

NANCY

Don't worry. My magic will help with that.

Ben closes his eyes as Nancy reaches for his forehead. With her free hand, she grips her amulet. Ben falls unconscious.

ASTRAL PROJECTION START:

EXT. CATACOMB - MORNING (CONT'D)

Ben's astral body is pushed out of his physical body. He looks around and comes to observe Nancy's physical body.

(CLOSE ON)

Ben takes in the details of her face, from the curls of her eyebrows to the curves that frame her face and the color in her lips. She is beautiful.

(BACK TO)

NANCY (DREAM/ASTRAL DOUBLE)

Stop staring.

A hand touches Ben's shoulder, startling him. He turns and sees Nancy standing in an astral body just like his own.

BEN

It worked?

NANCY

Of course. I'm not an amateur.

(looking around)

There's no difference from waking reality at all.

Nancy picks a stone and throws it, watching it bounce off rocks.

BEN

I've never had a visitor in my dream before.

Nancy notices that Ben's feet are not touching the ground.

NANCY

How are you flying?

BEN

(whirling like a showman)

In dreams, you can do anything you can imagine.

Nancy tries it but she is just hoping up and down. Ben chuckles and goes to the catacomb's entrance.

EXT. CATACOMB ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Rubble is blocking the way. Ben glides through the rubble effortlessly, like a ghost, but Nancy hesitates. He comes back for her.

BEN

Come on, I'll show you.

Ben leads her by the hand through the passage, her eyes shut.

INT. CATACOMB - CONTINUOUS

Darkness.

BEN

(to the dream)

Let there be light.

Torches lined along walls are set ablaze, providing light.

NANCY

Who did you just talk to?

BEN

You can call him my dream architect.

NANCY

(jokingly)

Oh... I totally knew that.

Ben notices the unusual SKELETONS that are buried here.

BEN

What are these creatures?

NANCY

This is a bloodrubi catacomb... so, bloodrubis.

BEN

Are they friendly?

NANCY

(picks a skull and puppeteers it)

You mean these dry bones? Sure, they don't bite.

(laughs together with Ben and then she puts the skull back,)

Sorry for the sacrilege.

(to Ben)

Most bloodrubis tend to keep to themselves.

Nancy and Ben continue to go deeper into the passages.

INT. CATACOMB PASSAGES - (CONTINUOUS)

The catacomb is a labyrinth of passages.

NANCY

Ask your dream architect if there is buried treasure.

BEN

Give me your hand first. We might get separated.

NANCY

(teases)

Are you sure it's not just an excuse for touching?

BEN

Ha... you are full of jokes today.
(takes her hand, addresses the dream architect)
Show us the treasure buried here.

Nothing happens.

NANCY

(disappointed)
So, nothing of value then?
(she releases Ben's hand)

BEN

Define value.

NANCY

As princess of the Onis Kingdom, what's worth my time here?

The two are suddenly separated.

INT. CATACOMBS, SEALED-OFF CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Nancy finds herself inside a sealed chamber. She explores the surroundings adorned with intricate carvings and effortlessly reads the writings on the chamber walls.

(ANGLE ON: WALL)

NANCY

(muttering)
"Instructions on selecting the next leader of a Bloodrubi clan."
(tracing her hand over written text)
"The magic of mind invasion... maims, disarms and kills without physical touch... chief candidates must participate in a tournament to the death... In here lies all defeated candidates of the mind invasion tournaments."

Nancy stands up from reading and takes a moment to see the wall of fallen bloodrubi chieftain candidates.

NANCY

Dream, how is this information valuable to me?

Suddenly, an unexpected force snatches Nancy with great speed, propelling her out of the catacomb walls as if she were a ghost.

EXT. SKY - DAY (CONT'D)

The force guides her away from the woods into canyon landscape.

INT. BLOODRUBI CITY, CAVE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Nancy is led into a cave decorated with OFFICE FURNITURE. The force gently sets her down. The bloodrubi leader, BELSHA, accompanied by SIX FEMALE BODYGUARDS, enters the room. Belsha starts signing papers at his desk while his guards position themselves around the room. Nancy, realizing they can't see her astral form, decides to inspect the papers. As she approaches, Belsha abruptly stops writing.

BELSHA

(aware of her presence)

I can sense you are there.

(rises and commands his guards)

We have an intruder. Erect a mental barrier.

Belsha sits down in the middle of the room and assumes a meditative posture. The six guards spread out to the corners of the room and sit in meditation too. The entire room shifts as they enter Belsha's mind construct.

INT. BELSHA'S CONSTRUCT, ENDLESS DARKNESS - CONTINUOUS

The construct is a mind world. The walls have fallen away except for the floor. Darkness extends forever but the place Nancy is standing on is lit perfectly. She tries to leave but a pulsating glass-like dome covers the entire area.

NANCY

Dream, get me out of this place.

No response. Nancy tries again. Still no response. Belsha is before her now, a levitating disembodied head with a smoke trail.

NANCY

(recalling)
It was you... Chief Belsha?

BELSHA

Princess...? I must admit, I did not see this coming.

NANCY

Any hostile action against me is treason.

The disembodied head morphs into Belsha's bloodrubi form. He towers over Nancy.

BELSHA

I stand here, all my plans exposed. How troublesome.

He pulls out a large sword from within his cloak. Nancy bends low and unsheathes two daggers from her boots. Belsha pulls out another sword. Through form manipulation, another pair of hands grow out from beneath his cloak and these hold a spear each. He lunges forward and swings one of his swords. Nancy blocks it but the force of the impact throws her back.

Belsha follows to finish her off but she rolls out of the way. He strikes the concrete floor causing concrete and rock to shatter. Nancy parries and deflects his next attacks while trying to get closer to jab him. However, his extra arms keep her busy, and she has to jump back to avoid the spears.

Belsha sends her crashing to the floor with a kick. One of her daggers spins away from her. She crawls to reach it but Belsha throws a spear, piercing Nancy's outstretched hand and burying its head into the concrete floor. Nancy screams in pain.

CUT TO:

INT. CATACOMB - CONTINUOUS

Ben rushes through walls of the catacomb, searching for Nancy.

NANCY (O.S)

(screams, via telepathy)

Ah.....!

Ben hears her scream in his mind and he is suddenly propelled by the dream at incredible speed toward her location.

INT. BELSHA'S CONSTRUCT - CONTINUOUS

Ben finds Nancy lying on the ground with a spear piercing her left hand, while Belsha, in four-armed giant form, prepares to strike with his sword. Ben assumes a ghost-like form and passes through the barrier. He rushes to Nancy's side and takes on a new form covered in steel, receiving Belsha's sword strike. Ben amplifies the impact's sound and creates a shockwave that throws Belsha back tumbling to the floor. Ben discards his steel form so he can comfort Nancy. She is relieved to see him but still in pain from the spear in her hand.

BEN

Close your eyes. You will feel a force lifting you. Do not resist it. Just relax and go with the flow.

(CLOSE UP ON: NANCY'S FACE)

Nancy nods. She closes her eyes and she is being lifted into the air. She opens her eyes to find herself kneeling where Ben was kneeling a moment ago.

(REVEAL)

Ben is lying on his belly with the spear piercing his hand. He groans in pain.

BEN

(through gritted teeth)

Son of a... damn it!

Ben moves his hand out of the spear with his ghosting ability and heals it. Nancy is amazed.

NANCY

How did you do that?

Ben strokes Nancy's hair, trying to calm her down.

BEN

I told you to take my hand and not let go.

Belsha recovers from the surprise of Ben's intrusion. Ben and Nancy stand up to face him, their hands intertwined.

NANCY

Ben - he's dangerous. His magic is mind invasion... if he kills us here, we die for real.

BEN

That's intense.

NANCY

Get us out of here.

BEN

(shakes his head)

If we run, he'll find you again. I will deal with him.

BELSHA

(scoffs at Ben's confidence)

You think you can defeat me?

BEN

I know I can. Dreams are my playground.

BELSHA

I accept your challenge!

Nancy takes a few steps back, giving Ben space to confront Belsha. Ben puts on a body of steel. Belsha is cautious. Ben advances towards Belsha, and suddenly, Belsha's cloak begins to expand, emitting smoke. The smoke whirls around, enveloping both Ben and Belsha, isolating Nancy. Belsha disappears within the smoke, his swords appearing and disappearing intermittently, taking swings at Ben. Though the strikes are futile against Ben's steel form, each hit grows heavier, causing Ben to stagger.

Ben changes tactics. The next time a sword strikes him, it digs into his steel form, binding it in place. Ben turns his head, using the sword hilt to locate Belsha, and he swiftly grabs him by the neck. Belsha loses his invisibility. Choking in Ben's grip, Belsha loses concentration, and the smoke dissipates. Ben knocks the swords from Belsha's hands and brings him down to his knees. Belsha tries to say something, but Ben isn't interested. With a powerful punch, Ben sends Belsha crashing to the ground. Ben follows, stomping on Belsha's extra arms, causing him immense pain. Ben sits on top of Belsha, repeatedly punching him in the face.

INSERT IMAGE: Belsha's physical body begins to spit out blood.

TWO GUARDS join the fight. One guard places her hand on Ben's shoulder. As Ben turns, her form quickly transforms into a LARGE SNAKE, coiling around him. It's a massive cobra, squeezing Ben tightly, overpowering his steel form. The serpent takes pleasure in watching Ben struggle. Ben's right-hand transforms into a sharp blade. He pushes his hand out, slicing through the snake's coils, causing blood to spray. The serpent cries out in a woman's voice. Ben follows the writhing head and stomps on it until its brains splatter on the floor.

INSERT IMAGE: Outside the barrier in the waking world, one bloodrubi guard collapses, dead.

The other guard, enraged by her partner's death, conjures chains to bind Ben's limbs. As Ben struggles against the chains, a massive steel HAMMER falls from the ceiling, knocking him to the ground. He is lucky he was still in steel form.

The hammer rolls away, making room for a second hammer, but Ben is prepared. He goes ghost-like, causing the chains to fall away. He swiftly moves and impales the guard manipulating the chains and hammers.

INSERT IMAGE: This guard collapses in the waking world as well.

Belsha, now recovering, becomes Ben's primary target. The remaining guards remove the barrier and move swiftly to protect him. TWO GUARDS rush towards Nancy, holding swords against her neck, while the other two position themselves beside Belsha. Ben presses his blade against Belsha's neck, ready to finish him.

GUARD

(before Nancy, to Ben)

Knight! If he dies, we will take the princess's life.

BEN

(hesitates but then)

Fine. I will spare your leader. But as a warning..

Ben plunges his blade into Belsha's left eye. As Belsha cries out in pain, Ben swiftly moves towards Nancy as a wind. He

embraces her tightly, causing a shockwave to knock the guards away. The construct falls away.

INT. BLOODRUBI CITY, CAVE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ben flies out of Belsha's office with Nancy, ghosting through the rock.

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY - CONTINUOUS

Nancy clings to him as they make their way back to their bodies, heading towards the safety of the forests.

ASTRAL PROJECTION END

EXT. CATACOMB - DAY

Ben opens his eyes to find Spot and Wonderbee patiently watching them. Nancy is asleep in his arms. Wonderbee clears her throat, prompting Nancy to stir and open her eyes, meeting Ben's gaze. A spark ignites between them, and Nancy closes her eyes with a smile, relishing the moment. Wonderbee clears her throat once more.

NANCY

Fine! I'm awake.

Nancy lifts herself from Ben, looking away. Ben feels a throbbing pain in his left hand and winces. He examines his swollen hand. Nancy notices.

NANCY

Let me see.

(after a brief examination)

It's mind invasion magic.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The group is heading back to the mansion. A shawl has become a makeshift support for Ben's arm. Nancy is clinging to him to support him.

NANCY

...and, that's what happened.

Matthias and his team gather before Ben.

MATTHIAS AND TEAM

Thank you for protecting our princess.

NANCY

(smiles softly)

Thank you.

BEN

Come on, guys. Like I would let anything happen to her. You can count on me.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS - DAY

(MONTAGE)

The days following Ben's injury prove uneventful. His hand, now bandaged, requires limited movement for a speedy recovery. As a result, Ben finds himself spending his time at the mansion, with the dogs for company.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, BEN'S ROOM - DAY

Nancy enters the room holding a SCROLL COMPUTER - impressive Xeronis technology. Ben sits on the bed, his injured hand resting on a pillow. She opens the scroll above his hand. The pages come to life, displaying an x-ray image of his hand.

NANCY

Well, that's a relief. No broken bones.

Curiosity gets the best of Ben as he takes the scroll from Nancy. He bursts into laughter when he sees the x-ray image of her skull.

NANCY

(playfully)

Give it back, Ben!

Nancy tries to snatch the scroll back from Ben, but he playfully evades her, holding it out of her reach. Laughter fills the air as she chases him out.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS, FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Ben and Nancy dash out of the mansion chasing each other. Wonderbee watches them with annoyance from the shade, while Spot barks loudly, joining Nancy in the pursuit.

EXT. ONIS CITY, HILL - SUNSET

Nancy and Wonderbee are standing upon a hill. Spot goes off to mark some trees with his scent. They are looking out at her beautiful city.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, BEN'S ROOM - DAY

Ben removes the bandage from his left hand. He is better now. He stretches his hand and flexes his fingers. Satisfied, he heads out.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - CONTINUOUS

Ben comes outside to meet Nancy, who is waiting for him on her flying bike. Nancy takes out a SMALL CRYSTAL from the controls. She taps a code on the dashboard and hands Ben the crystal. Ben accepts it, timid.

CUT

EXT. SKY - DAY

Nancy and Ben soar through the clouds on the flying bike. Ben, in control of the bike, looks below at the breathtaking terrain. Nancy is ecstatic and lets out a scream of excitement.

EXT. SKY, FLYING BIKE - DAY (LATER)

Ben puts the bike on auto-pilot as they hover above trees.

BEN

Your bike is amazing.

NANCY

Good. It's my gift to you... to remember this place.

BEN

Thank you but I won't need a gift to remember you.

NANCY

You won't?

BEN

Coming here was not exactly a dream holiday but I did meet an incredible princess.

NANCY

You did? Wait, you mean me?

(punches him in the back as he laughs)

Stop teasing.

He turns to gaze into Nancy's beautiful green eyes. He has already fallen in love with her.

BEN

Can I ask you something?

(Nancy nods, eager to hear him out)

Then again, asking this might not be fair. I don't even know what I am thinking. I just know that day in and day out I look forward to your visits.

NANCY

I enjoy our time together. Maybe a little too much.

(they chuckle)

It is strange. I find that when I'm away from you, I find myself longing to return.

BEN

(chokes on his words)

...

NANCY

Oh no. That totally sounded weird, didn't it?

BEN

No, it was just... a little too straightforward.

NANCY

Should I go in circles then?

BEN

(flirts)

No. You are fine just the way you are.

NANCY

Fine?

BEN

Yes, and very beautiful.

Nancy blushes, pleased by the compliment.

NANCY

You think I am beautiful?

(Ben nods)

Thank you. Now, ask me what you want.

Interruption as their bike has just been shot at. Ben struggles to regain control, but the bike continues to spiral and sink.

BEN

Hold on!

EXT. WOODS - DAY (CONT'D)

They crash-land softly, unharmed. Nancy quickly inspects the bike and discovers an IRON ROD with two prongs lodged in its sides. She plucks it from the bike.

NANCY

E.M.P prongs, fired from small cannon to shut down machines.

BEN

We were shot down?

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Ben and Nancy are fleeing. Nancy, surprisingly, outruns Ben.

INSERT IMAGE: A **YOUNG NANCY (10)** sprints through the woods, flanked by a **TEAM OF DOGS** of various breeds. She is the odd one out but she is enjoying herself.

(BACK TO PRESENT)

As they run, Nancy abruptly stops, signaling Ben to do the same.

NANCY

(breathlessly)

Stop, the traps!

BEN

(confused)

What traps?

NANCY

(gesturing)

The entire ground ahead of us. *Pese apa.*

Nancy's eyes glow momentarily. Rustling branches and shrubs indicate their pursuers are closing in. Ben instructs Nancy to hide while he finds cover behind the trees. He peeks out to observe their pursuers. Five **BLOODRUBIS** emerge from the bushes. They wear black fur cloaks and carry **SPEARS** with crystal heads that shoot high-velocity energy bolts. The bloodrubis search for tracks, determined to find Ben and Nancy. One bloodrubi beckons the others to circle the tree where Nancy is hiding.

BEN

(yelling)

Hey!

The bloodrubis turn their attention to Ben as he raises his hands, showing he is unarmed. He approaches them cautiously, trying to divert their attention away from Nancy.

BEN

(on his knees)

I'm unarmed. It's me you're looking for. I'm alone.

The bloodrubis, surprised by Ben's bold move, start to move towards him. Nancy catches Ben's eye, and he subtly shakes his head, signaling her not to engage. The group exchanges a few words in Xeronian. They make Ben their prisoner. They bind Ben's

feet and hands to a pole and carry him away, with Nancy secretly following them.

EXT. CAVE - SUNSET

They have not detected Nancy and she follows them to a cave where a large number of the bloodrubis guard the entrance. Then Ben disappears with the five into the mouth of the cave. There is nothing she can do for him now except to go back and avoid capture herself.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - EVENING

Nancy is almost breathless when she makes it to the mansion.

WONDERBEE

What took you so long?

Matthias comes to meet her too.

WONDERBEE (CONT'D)

Where is Ben?

Nancy can only look at them.

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY - NIGHT

The Bloodrubi city is built in the walls of a massive gorge with brilliantly carved houses and numerous stone bridges connecting both sides of the divide. Ben is taken aboard a flying canoe-like vehicle steered by a bloodrubi who is holding a glowing rudder. Ben watches in awe as their ship avoids the bridges and continues on its path. Flying vehicles, resembling canoes and bikes, fill the sky, bustling with traffic

CUT

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Glowing crystals provide dim lighting in a prison. Ben is shoved inside a small cell, surrounded by rock walls. From the next cell, a female bloodrubi, **(TIANA, 24)** crawls towards the bars. She has soft features and beautiful scarlet eyes. Bloodrubis prefer to shave their heads, both males and females.

TIANA

(in Xeronian)

Who are you?

BEN

I'm sorry. I don't speak your language.

TIANA

I said, 'who are you?'

She speaks with an accent.

BEN

I am... nobody important.

TIANA

Somebody doesn't seem to think so. Look where you are.

Ben's gaze shifts to the bloodrubi prisoners within the cells, a little too crowded, their spirits broken and exhaustion evident.

TIANA

You look clueless. There is an uprising in the city.

BEN

An uprising...?

TIANA

(rests her hands on the bars separating their cells)

Our chief tried to assassinate the princess. That's risking war with the capital. Those trying to put an end to his madness have either been assassinated or been brought here. I suppose even you.

Tiana leans back against the rock wall, avoiding eye contact. Ben does not say anything.

TIANA

You don't have to tell me anything. But as people sharing the same fate, can you tell me your name at least. An enemy of our traitorous chief is my ally.

BEN

My name is Ben.

TIANA

Tiana.

Tiana moves to the back of her cell and sits down in a meditative posture. Ben follows suit, sitting down and finally resting for the night.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. PALACE, NANCY'S CHAMBERS - MORNING

At first light, Nancy was up early after a sleepless night. A team of Maids are helping her dress up in a Victorian dress.

NANCY

(anxiously)

Hurry... he won't wait forever.

INT. PALACE, KING'S THRONE - MORNING (CONT'D)

Large doors into the throne room are swung open and Nancy enters to find her father on his throne and Esmeralda on a cushion facing the king. The maids curtsy and leave, and Nancy looks to see the big doors shut again. The platform is now hers. It is now her turn to curtsy, first to the king and then to Esmeralda. The king only smiles and watches her come to take the cushion opposite Esmeralda.

KING GORDON

(to Esmeralda)

You taught her well.

ESMERALDA

She is a fast learner.

KING GORDON

She even booked an appointment with me through official channels? What happened to my daughter?

Laughter.

NANCY

Yes, I wanted to talk with you alone.

Nancy casts a quick glance at Esmeralda.

KING GORDON

Impossible. Esmeralda is my new Advisor.

NANCY

(faces Esmeralda)

Congratulations madam.

ESMERALDA

(nods and then)

A royal must always couple their words with actions. I expect a gift from you.

NANCY

Of course.

ESMERALDA

Now, you can present your case to the king.

They both listen.

NANCY

(gets up and faces her father)

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

KING GORDON

Certainly not. Why?

Esmeralda is now sipping from a teacup and saucer while she listens.

NANCY

Then, invade the bloodrubis!

Esmeralda spills her tea. She wipes her dress.

KING GORDON

(looking hard at Esmeralda)

Where is she getting this?

ESMERALDA

I am just as surprised as you are.

(looks at Nancy)

This is madness. Bloodrubic? If you are having fears of them rising against this kingdom, rest your mind.

NANCY

That's not what I heard.

(moves to the tea table, pours herself tea)

There is a chief stirring trouble and attempting to unite the clans. Werewolves are involved too.

Esmeralda spills her tea again.

KING GORDON

Where did you hear this?

ESMERALDA

My lord..

KING GORDON

Stop it Esmeralda. We are family. Just call me Gordon.

ESMERALDA

Yes. Gordon... I should have told you earlier but she mixes with commoners.

Gordon groans and holds his head. He knows.

NANCY

I go out there for research.

KING GORDON

(under his breath)

More like for fun and games.

ESMERALDA

Fanatics the lot of them. What they say does not hold water under scrutiny.

KING GORDON

Nancy, it is not your job to be playing espionage. Our kingdom is not prepared to act on assumptions.

NANCY

They are not assumptions...

KING GORDON

That will be all. Esmeralda still has much to teach you. Answer when she summons you.

NANCY

Will you at least send out a scouting party?

ESMERALDA

I'll see to it that our best scouts are deployed, if of course, that will put our future queen at ease.

NANCY

Thank you. I'll take my leave. Father... madam.

She leaves her teacup on the table, curtsies, and heads towards the big doors that are swung open for her.

INT. PALACE, NANCY'S CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Nancy enters her room and shuts the doors. She is now alone with Spot who lies on the bed. He quickly looks at her.

SPOT

Will the king take up the invasion plan?

NANCY

I was not believed.

SPOT

So... Ben is on his own?

NANCY

Like hell he is! This was just plan A, which was unlikely to pan out. I have a plan B and a plan C.
(counts on her fingers)

SPOT

What's plan B?

NANCY

Go fetch Wonderbee for me.

Then Spot gets down from the bed and she opens the door for him.

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY, PRISON - MORNING

The sun is just coming up and activity is still relatively low. A group of female bloodrubis in black fur garments are arriving by flying bikes and flying canoes.

INT. PRISON, BEN'S CELL - MORNING

Ben is still fast asleep.

(DOLLY IN: BEN'S CLOSED EYES)
DREAM START:

EXT. ONIS CITY, STREETS - DAY

(TEXT: 2 MONTHS AGO)

Ben finds himself standing in a metropolitan district in ghost form. The streets are busy. Xeronians pass through him unawares. He turns and sees Nancy approaching. She blends into the crowd very well, disguised. She is holding a CAT in her hands and moving down this way. She is greeting the vendors at the sides of the road and they are greeting her back. They call her by a moniker rather than her real name. She brings the cat to an **Old LADY (80)** who can't contain her joy.

OLD LADY

Oh... you found Billy.

(kisses the cat)

I missed you so much.

(to Nancy)

Thank you so much, 23.

NANCY (AS 23)

My fist had a word with the hooligans that took her. Rest assured, they won't be bothering you again.

OLD LADY

You are so kind. Here's an apple.

(takes an apple from her stall and gifts Nancy)

NANCY (AS 23)

Thank you.

As Nancy takes her first bite and walks past a shop,

SHOPKEEPER (35, MALE)

Hey, 23. Jonathan is looking for trackers. Swing by his shop and see if it's your cup of tea.

NANCY (AS 23)

Thanks so much. I will do just that.

Ben can keep observing her like this but as she is passing him,

BEN

Nancy...?

She abruptly stops, looks around, mystified. The sky above her lights up bathing the streets with blue light. She looks up.

INSERT IMAGE: Wormhole opens up and two bikes go in. The wormhole shuts.

Nancy eats her apple, excited by the wormhole and already thinking her designs for it. She smiles and continues on her way. Ben completely dissolves into the air.

DREAM END

INT. PRISON CELL - MORNING

Ben wakes up inside his dimly lit cell. Tiana is already awake and looking at him from within her cell. Three BLOODRUBI GUARDS approach a cell across from Ben's, accompanied by a mind invader, **TAMBUDZAI (30'S)**. They drag out one bloodrubi PRISONER. Tambudzai walks towards Ben's cell, observing him curiously.

TAMBUDZAI (in Xeronian)

Open the cell.

Tiana draws near to spectate. Two guards enter Ben's cell and force him to his knees. One guard remains outside with the prisoner. Tambudzai crouches down to meet Ben's gaze.

TAMBUDZAI (in Xeronian)

I am told you are a spy?

(Ben remains silent)

Are they wrong?

(When Ben still doesn't respond, she asks,)
Does he not speak?

TIANA

(in Xeronian, from her cell)

You need a translator with him.

(Tambudzai glances at Tiana, annoyed, there is no translator)
I can translate for you.

TAMBUDZAI (in Xeronian)

(to one guard)

Fetch her.

Tiana's cell is unlocked. She is brought into Ben's cell. She translates between them.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

My name is Tambudzai. What is your name?

BEN

Ben.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

We will keep this simple. For every lie you tell, I take a limb off that prisoner.

(points at the prisoner outside Ben's cell)

Whatever pain he suffers is entirely on you.

Ben is clearly confused so Tiana adds,

TIANA

Believe it. She means every word.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

Start by telling me who you are.

BEN

I live in Tionun. I am a student visiting the capital.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

That's strike one.

(she glances at the prisoner outside)

A wolf creature with vapor for form rushes out of Tambudzai and pounces on the cowering prisoner outside, tearing off one arm effortlessly. Shock as the prisoner cries in pain. The vapor rushes back into Tambudzai and the creature vanishes. Tiana wears a pained expression. One guard fires his spear and cauterizes the prisoner's wound, staunching the bleeding. As the prisoner faints, laughter rises from the guards.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

Next time you tell a lie, I am taking his leg.

Ben looks at Tambudzai, appalled by her cruelty. Tambudzai speaks to her guard and then turns back to Ben.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

Why were you driving the princess' flying bike? What are you to the princess?

BEN

I... have no idea what you are talking about.

Tambudzai laughs, thoroughly enjoying herself. The guard awakens the unconscious prisoner, and Tambudzai's wolf emerges once again. Ben and Tiana look away as the prisoner loses a leg. His cries echo throughout the prison.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

What's your relationship to the princess?

BEN

I... Can I answer the first question first?

(Tambudzai reluctantly agrees)

I'm not from this world. I'm from planet Earth.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

You are not lying. I want to know more.

BEN

Can you at least tell me how your magic works?

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

Illusions by themselves can't hurt anyone. My magic causes illusions to materialize. There is no defense.

TIANA

She is telling the truth. With mind invasion, it's over the moment she enters the room.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

What's your relation to the princess?

BEN

I am not sure there is any.

Vapor first, and then the wolf creature rushes to the prisoner and bites off his head, killing him. Ben looks away. Tiana mourns at this death and Ben is troubled by her weeping. Tambudzai says some words to her and Tiana steels herself and will not cry anymore. Ben sees that her hands are clenched fists. As Tiana translates, her voice is trembling.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

If you lie again, I will take your arm.

BEN

(feeling guilty, faces Tiana)

Tiana, I am so sorry.

TIANA

I don't blame you. If you want to protect your princess, then protect her. Do it proudly.

Ben looks at his left hand and it is trembling. He is afraid for his life. Tambudzai releases a short laugh, and then she attempts to hide her pleasure.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

Is it correct to assume that the princess will come for you?

(Ben chooses silence)

Answer me!

It is meant to frighten but Tambudzai unleashes her wolf of vapor upon Ben. Ben falls backward but he sees vapor appear over his right arm. It is ghost-like, just like his dream double. It is an illusory arm, and Ben uses his eyes to move it around. His magic is active thanks to Tambudzai's magic!

Vapor gathers and forms a large armored hand which Ben moves to grab the unsuspecting wolf by the neck, and it is the case that illusory forms can interact with each other. Tambudzai chokes and struggles to breathe, trying to draw back her vapor, but Ben's grip prevents her. Tambudzai and Ben tug against each other, and Ben feels strain on his physical hand. Tambudzai fights for air.

More vapor gathers as another arm forms that is gripping a blade. This arm of vapor jabs the illusory wolf in the neck. Tambudzai holds her neck, wounded. Ben, seeing her reaction, swiftly slices through the wolf's neck with a swish of his wrist. Tambudzai's hands are suddenly drenched in blood, and she falls back, unable to release her neck. Her guards rush to check on her, but she is losing too much blood. Her major arteries have been cut clean with an invisible blade. She won't last a minute. As Tambudzai's magic dies down, Ben loses access to his illusory body as well.

INT. PRISON CELL - CONTINUOUS

The guards stand in shock, staring at Tambudzai's lifeless body lying in a pool of blood. They have no idea what just happened. Tiana, however, knows. She looks at Ben, a glimmer of understanding in her eyes. The guards are distracted so she swiftly kicks the nearest guard, sending him crashing into the rock bars, knocking him unconscious. As another guard turns, Tiana jumps onto his shoulders, locking her legs around his neck. With a quick motion, she hurls the guard off his feet, sending him crashing into the rock walls. Ben ducks out of the way as the guard is flung across the room.

The third guard regains points his spear at Tiana, preparing to fire lethal energy bolts. Tiana acts swiftly, kicking the spear out of his hands. She follows up with a powerful roundhouse kick to the back of his neck, rendering him unconscious. She picks up a spear from the ground and checks its battery level. She looks back at Ben with determination.

TIANA

I'll take it from here, Earthling.

INT. PRISON LOWER FLOORS, PASSAGE - CONTINUOUS

Tiana steps out of the cell, ready to face the remaining guards on the floor. Ben watches as she confidently advances towards

them. Using her spear as a staff, Tiana swats the guard in front of her with incredible force. Ben is amazed by her power. As two guards open fire on Tiana, she deflects their bolts with her spinning spear. The bolts bounce off her, disappearing into the prison metal bars. Tiana stops spinning her spear, takes aim, and fires back at the guards. Her aim is true, and the guards are unable to dodge her attacks. Tiana's spear needs recharging, but only one guard remains. She throws her spear, hitting the guard in the face with a heavy impact. The guard falls to the ground, defeated, and Tiana catches her spear which has bounced back to her.

CUT

INT. PRISON, LOWER FLOORS - DAY

Tiana and the bloodrubis finish freeing all the prisoners on the floor. They now face a DOOR with an electronic lock leading to the upper floors. It needs a code to open it.

BEN

(approaching Tiana)

I think with my magic I can get the code.

TIANA

Then, what are you waiting for?

BEN

I need to be relaxing, deeply, like near sleep.

TIANA

(regards him)

How long do you need?

BEN

Give me 30 minutes.

TIANA

You have 20. Make it count, Earthling.

Tiana moves everyone to the back, giving Ben privacy. Ben sits cross-legged, facing the door. He takes a deep breath, closes his eyes, and begins his meditation.

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

Wonderbee perches onto the balcony of Nancy's chambers and peeps inside. Nancy has just finished putting on tight-fitting fur attire that would make moving easier for her. She fills her pouch with small diamonds in order to cover expenses. Spot draws closer so Nancy says to him,

NANCY

Hold the fort for us, boy.

SPOT

Just try not to be long.

Nancy goes onto her balcony and mounts Wonderbee.

WONDERBEE

Where are we going?

NANCY

Cave Yellowbee. Let's go meet your mother.

CUT

EXT. YELLOWBEE'S DOMAIN, SKY - DAY

Wonderbee and Nancy enter dragon territory. Two large DRAGONS emerge from the clouds and begin escorting them.

A large mountain rises in the distance. The dragons guide Wonderbee and Nancy towards it. Nancy looks down and sees a gathering of dragons, some flying, perched, or lying on the ground. She is amazed by the sight.

EXT. CAVE YELLOWBEE, ENTRANCE - DAY

Wonderbee sets Nancy down near the entrance to her mother's cave. No one pays them any attention.

NANCY

What is going on?

A dragon with silver scales, **SILVERBEE (15, SILVER SCALES, 3 METERS TALL)**, booms from the crowd and runs towards Wonderbee.

WONDERBEE

(excitedly)

Sis!

Wonderbee and Silverbee greet each other with a unique sibling greeting, chasing each other playfully. Nancy clears her throat, interrupting their fun. Silverbee approaches Nancy and lowers her head for an embrace she knew was coming.

NANCY

How are you, Silverbee?

SILVERBEE

You've been a stranger. The city can't be that fun with my boring little sister for company.

WONDERBEE

(protesting)

I am not boring.

Laughter.

INSERT IMAGE: Loud roaring and flashes of light from inside the cave.

NANCY

What's with this gathering?

SILVERBEE

Someone has been asking the dragons to join in a revolt against the capital.

NANCY

Oh.

SILVERBEE

I know, right? So, what brings you here?

NANCY

This might be a bad time.

WONDERBEE

Her boyfriend is in trouble.

NANCY

Wonderbee...! Well yes, Ben got kidnapped by bloodrubis yesterday.

SILVERBEE

(to Wonderbee)

Is this Ben worthy to stand by her side?

WONDERBEE

We'll rescue him first and then have you judge him.

Silverbee looks at Nancy who nods.

NANCY

I am here to ask your mother for help.

Another crashing sound comes from inside the cave.

SILVERBEE

(removing her eyes from the cave)

Yeah, I don't see that happening. The queen has a lot on her plate right now.

NANCY

When will the conference end? I can't afford to wait any longer. The bloodrubis might execute him.

SILVERBEE

I'll help.

NANCY

My plan involves storming the bloodrubi city.

SILVERBEE

I'll still help.

Nancy opens her mouth to say something but seeing Silverbee's determination, she gives up. She smiles.

INT. BLOODRUBI CITY, PRISON, LOWER FLOORS - DAY

Tiana gently rouses Ben from his meditation. Ben gets up and looks at the group coming to gather before him. They are raring to go. Ben opens his mouth to share the plan.

CUT

INT. PRISON, LOWER FLOORS - LATER

An announcement comes out on SPEAKERS in the voice of a woman. She speaks in Xeronian. Tiana looks at Ben in amazement.

TIANA

You were right. All mind invaders are being called to gather on the top floor.

BEN

Then we should move too. Two should join us.

Tiana puts on the attire of a mind invader, two others put on guards' attire. They bind Ben's hands as he acts as a prisoner.

BEN

The passcode to the armory on the floor above is 8426.

Tiana conveys it to the bloodrubi who will be staying behind. They go to the electronic lock before the big door.

BEN

The code for this door is 1313.

Tiana enters the code, and the doors slide open, revealing stairs leading to the floor above. They look at Ben as if he is some miracle. Tiana and the 2 disguising as guards pull their hoods over their heads, hiding their faces. They proceed upstairs, leaving the others behind.

INT. PRISON PASSAGE - CONTINUOUS

Tiana leads the way, followed closely by Ben and their 2 companions. They encounter other guards who salute Tiana, mistaking her for a mind invader. Tiana checks the conditions of the inmates, assessing their potential help in the upcoming battle. They reach an elevator at the end of the passage, with an armory to their right. Instead of storming the armory, they head inside the elevator.

INT. PRISON, TOP FLOORS, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The elevator doors slide open. Ben and the 3 bloodrubis with him exit onto the floor where mind invaders are gathering in the hall ahead. A few late mind invaders rush past. The meeting in the assembly has already started.

Tiana's eyes widen as she spots a shelf with various blades and swords. She hurries and selects the blades she needs, tucking them away inside her robe. The disguised companions remove Ben's fetters. Tiana rejoins the group, now wielding a sword in each hand. Ben nods in approval, understanding that words are meaningless at this point. Tiana cast her robe away so she can move freely in her short cut warrior garb. She takes the lead and enters the hall and Ben follows and closes the doors as they leave their two companions as look-outs.

INT. CONFERENCE HALL - CONTINUOUS

The hall is a cylindrical shape with platforms marking each floor, accessed by winding staircases along the walls. Ben notices mind invaders leaning from the platforms, listening intently to a speaker on podium. Behind them, one door leads to the control room.

Tiana swings her blades viciously, catching the unsuspecting mind invaders off guard. She swiftly takes down four of them, causing confusion among the others. Tiana dives into their midst, and the mind invaders shift from confusion to flight. Those on the platforms shout and try to rally the others, but Tiana's blades continue to strike fear. Ben assists with a bolt spear, firing lethal shocks that send enemies flying or set them on fire. But he can only do so much with it seeing it only fired 4 rounds and no more.

The mind invaders regroup, ready to fight back.

Ben stands against the walls, his left hand outstretched before him, waiting for the gathering of vapor.

Suddenly, a charging creature of vapor with massive hooves lunges at Tiana. She skillfully dodges the beast, but a spinning blade of vapor flies towards her throat. With a quick somersault, Tiana narrowly avoids the attack.

The vapor beast charges again and collides with Tiana, sending her flying across the room. Vapor starts to gather over Ben's left hand. He molds the vapor with visualization, covering his spear with the substance.

BEN

(urgently)

Ti!

Tiana locks eyes with Ben as he throws the spear covered in vapor towards her. She catches it, rolling to her feet.

BEN

Finish them.

Tiana examines the spear and sees the vapor. The spinning blade of vapor returns, aiming for Tiana once again. She swats it away.

INSERT IMAGE: The owner of the blade receives a cut on her hand. The onlookers are astonished.

Tiana throws the spear at the charging illusory beast.

INSERT IMAGE: The mind invader controlling the beast falls backward immediately, defeated and dead.

Tiana retrieves two blades from her belt. With a gesture from Ben, vapor rushes back to Tiana, gathering around her blades. Ben manipulates the illusions, just like the mind invaders. Tiana throws her blades, taking down two more mind invaders by taking out creatures of vapor that they send after her. With their magic useless against their assailant, the remaining few attempt to escape, but,

INSERT IMAGE: An illusory wall rises around the entire hall, trapping everyone inside.

Tiana draws another blade,

INSERT IMAGE: An illusory staircase rises giving access to the platforms above.

Tiana ascends, swiftly eliminating the remaining mind invaders who beg for mercy. When her job is done, she drops the blades from her blood-stained hands and weeps. Ben opens the doors for their two comrades, who stand in stunned silence. He points towards a door ahead. They understand their mission: the control room.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Ben and Tiana stand in the control room, having taken control from the guards. Multiple MONITORS display the entire facility before them. He presses a button to sound the alarm.

INSERT IMAGE: The alarm is heard throughout the entire prison.

INSERT IMAGE: The bloodrubis on the lower floors start the second wave of attack. they attack the guards who are distracted by the alarm.

Ben presses a button.

INSERT IMAGE: More cells are unlocked and prisoners arm themselves with weapons from the armory.

BEN

(pointing to a monitor)

Those three are trouble.

Tiana looks at the monitor and sees 3 elderly bloodrubis, (**3 LILITHS, ELDERLY**), in mind invader robes rushing in some tunnel corridor.

TIANA

I'll lock the tunnels.

Tiana hits a button.

INSERT IMAGE: Large doors in a tunnel slide shut, trapping the 3 Liliths.

INSERT IMAGE: A set of big doors that lead outside open, revealing vehicles parked outside.

BEN

This is it for me.

Tiana gets up to face him. She is really tall so to face her he tilts his head up slightly.

BEN (CONT'D)

Let's escape together.

TIANA

I can't. They need me.

Ben glances at the monitors, rioting in progress, conflicted.

TIANA

(noticing his worry)

Go before your window closes. Your princess needs you, Earthling.

INT. PRISON, UPPER FLOORS - DAY

Ben hurries through the facility aiming for the flying bikes so he can escape but a loud EXPLOSION behind him spoils everything. It takes him a moment to recover and as he gets back on his feet. What he sees chills his blood to the bone.

(PAN TO: THE 3 Liliths)

The 3 Liliths have caused the explosion to escape the tunnels and they have succeeded. Now, they walk confidently, heading into the facility to quench the rioting.

(BACK TO: BEN)

Ben watches in awe as the 3 Liliths walk with a sphere of faint vapor surrounding them. The sphere extends to a 5-meter radius, pushing rocks and folding metal with an invisible force. This is top-notch mind invasion magic. One of the Liliths leads, while the other two closely follow, their hands placed on the leader's shoulders in a magic-boosting circuit.

INT. UPPER FLOORS - CONTINUOUS

PRISONERS who have made it to the upper floors begin firing bolts towards the 3 Liliths, only to find their attacks deflected by the mind invaders. The defensive sphere surrounding the Liliths acts as a shield, capable of extending its radius or contracting it at their will. When extended, it rushes outwards, vaporizing anything it engulfs with extreme heat.

INT. FACILITY, STAIRCASE - DAY

The Liliths descend the stairs, heading towards the lower floors where the prisoners have taken over.

INT. FACILITY - LOWER FLOORS - CONTINUOUS

Ben arrives on the lower floors to find prisoners building barricades, preparing for a final stand against the Liliths. The bloodrubi prisoners, recognizing Ben, express their happiness and determination to fight alongside him. They are saying all sorts of things in Xeronian to him and for once he doesn't need a translator to understand them.

INT. FACILITY - BARRICADE - CONTINUOUS

Tiana stands her ground with a group against the approaching Liliths. The 3 Liliths extend their death sphere, vaporizing those before them. Before the sphere can touch Tiana, Ben quickly raises an illusory wall and stops the death sphere from extending any further.

Tiana turns to see Ben behind her, pushing against an invisible pressure. She wants to express relief but Ben falls onto one knee. Ben's illusory wall begins to crumble inch by inch as the Liliths push against it and Tiana sees the danger. Tiana barks orders to the prisoners, instructing them to escape to the lower floors. They obey and begin to flee.

Steel rods of vapor emerge to reinforce Ben's wall. The Liliths stop.

LEADING LILITH

(curious)

Who are you? Your magic is similar to ours, but not quite the same.

They stop using their magic and Ben's wall also disappears in turn. Without pressure on him, Ben gets back to his feet.

LEADING LILITH

What is this, your curious magic, what is it called?

BEN

Dream-walking...?

LEADING LILITH

You mock us.

(looks at Tiana who returns and stands next to Ben)

You two made quick work of my children.

(looks at Ben and extends a welcoming hand)
Come under my tutelage. I will spare you at least,
dream-walker. Why should I snuff out potential?

BEN

Isn't Tiana one of your children? They that stand
behind her too, are they not also your children?

INSERT IMAGE: Bloodrubi prisoners standing a safe distance
behind.

Tiana is surprised by Ben's words.

LEADING LILITH

They chose their fate when they opposed our chief.
They leave me no choice but to eradicate them.

BEN

Not while I am here.

LEADING LILITH

(laughs)

What can you possibly do? Your power isn't quite
enough for the 3 of us. Your wall will fall.

With those words, the two Liliths place their hands on their
leader's shoulders, channeling their magic to boost its power.
The death sphere appears with explosive energy. Ben erects a
wall but it immediately starts cracking faster than he can keep
up. In a split second, Ben leaps towards Tiana, shielding her
from the impending danger. As they crash to the ground, he
conjures a small defensive sphere that acts as a barrier against
the death sphere's vaporization effects. Tiana looks up at Ben,
who kneels above her, his hands seemingly supporting an
invisible weight on his shoulders. She notices that he has
managed to protect them, but at a cost - he is bleeding from his
nose.

Aware that Ben's shield could fail at any moment, Tiana rips her
sleeve and gently wipes the blood from his nose. Ben, struggling
under the immense pressure, trembles and can't bring himself to
respond. He manages a weak smile.

TIANA

Why did you come back?

BEN

(chuckles)

Unfinished business...?

The leading Lilith takes a deep breath and unleashes a sonic wave attack causing Ben's sphere to vibrate, nearing its breaking point. Ben grits his teeth and cries out in agony as he musters the last of his strength, pushing his sphere outward. With one final burst, his shield explodes, creating a shockwave that sends the Liliths stumbling and losing their focus. The entire facility shakes as if struck by an earthquake. With their focus disrupted, the death sphere vanishes, leaving Ben completely drained. He falls forward, and Tiana catches him just in time. Ben slips into unconsciousness. Setting Ben down gently, Tiana reaches for her bolt spear and fires at the Liliths, but the bolts deflect away.

LEADING LILITH

You both put up a good fight. You should be proud for not leaving him behind in the face of certain death.

TIANA

Not exactly what I want to hear from you but...

(looks down at Ben)

I regret that he is here... fighting a war not his own.

Tiana cradles Ben, feeling an instant connection and a potential for a deep friendship. The Liliths prepare to unleash another death sphere, but a wall of vapor forms, protecting Tiana. Ben's magic remains active, surprising both Tiana and the Liliths. Though Tiana can't see Ben's illusory body, she witnesses the effects of his magic. The walls he creates are stronger and more formidable than anything she has seen before. They dig into the floor, cracking rocks and reinforced steel with their sheer strength.

The Liliths release another sonic wave attack, but instead of breaking Ben's walls, it causes the entire facility to groan and crack under the strain.

BEN'S PERSPECTIVE:

Ben is standing in astral form and he is looking at the 3 Liliths. From this plane, they have taken the form of a RED DRAGON with three heads, their necks elongated.

The dragon heads exhale fire in all directions, turning their victims into ash. They create an incineration field around them. Ben glides through the wall, entering the incineration field. He surrounds himself with scorching flames, visualizing their color and sound, and they become his clothing. His flames burn white-hot, hotter than the Liliths' red fire. He approaches the dragon, who is taken aback by his ability to enter the death sphere. The dragon tries to attack him with her tail, but Ben has made himself intangible like a ghost. He jabs into the heart of the dragon and grabs it firmly in his grip and begins to crush it. He makes himself burn even brighter and overwhelms the dragon's fire with his.

TIANA'S PERSPECTIVE:

Tiana sees a form of vapor going toward the Liliths, but now she sees the Liliths choke up and stagger backward as if their air is cut off, and then in the next moment, they all scream as their bodies quickly turn to ash and then continue to disintegrate. Ben's protective wall vanishes, and Tiana keeps her gaze on Ben who is lying unconscious in her arms. As the bloodrubi prisoners return, they gather around Tiana, equally stunned by the 3 Liliths' demise and Ben's victory. They do not disturb him.

TIANA

(to everyone)

I have decided. From today on till the day I give my breath, I will be Ben's sword.

Suddenly, one bloodrubi comes from the upper floors.

BLOODRUBI

(in Xeronian)

There's trouble coming!

EXT. PRISON, SKY - CONTINUOUS

Reinforcements, including a fleet of the bloodrubi army on flying bikes and FIVE DRAGONS, are approaching.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - DAY

Nancy stands outside Mansion Matthias, waiting anxiously. Matthias and his dogs are by her side, also eager to help. They scan the horizon.

(ANGLE ON: SKY)

A team of 4 DRAGONS approaches from the horizon. Nancy and the others spot them.

(BACK TO)

NANCY

(excited)

They're here! Silverbee came through!

The dragons land and line up before Nancy. Including Silverbee, they are **RASHA (7, JET BLACK SCALES, 2 METERS TALL, MALE)**, **PENGA (12, OXBLOOD SCALES, 2.2 METERS TALL, MALE)**, and **GANGO (8, GREEN SCALES, 1.6 METERS TALL, FEMALE)**.

CUT

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY, SKY - DAY

Nancy, riding Wonderbee, approaches the Bloodrubi city from above - in the clouds. Four dragons follow closely behind. Silverbee, sensing Nancy's nervousness, flies beside her. Nancy's eyes are glowing green because of her telepathy magic.

SILVERBEE (via telepathy)

You have nothing to fear, princess. We have your back.

Nancy is reassured. They begin to descend out of the clouds,

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY, WOODS - DAY

Nancy sets her feet on the ground and stretches her arms. The dragons wait for her as she shows them the secret entrance to the Bloodrubi city. Nancy walks casually out of the woods to the open. They initialize an open attack against the BLOODRUBI SENTRIES. Rasha utilizes his invisibility to knock out the guards on patrol at the top of the cave. They literally do not see what is hitting them.

Penga charges the guards at the entrance, knocking them all over the place like a mad bull. One guard point his bolt spear against Nancy and he incurs the wrath of Silverbee. Silverbee

bites his arm and hurls him far against the cave walls like a sack of potatoes. Gango puts the other guards to sleep with her soporific breath which spreads like green smoke.

INT. BLOODRUBI CITY, CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Nancy strolls into the cave, while the dragons take care of the guards. She takes the opportunity to look around, as this is her first time physically being there.

NANCY (via telepathy)

We do not know where they took Ben. Bring me one I can question.

Silverbee quickly brings a BLOODRUBI GUARD to Nancy's feet. He gets up but Silverbee pushes him against a wall and stands guard. The other dragons come and glare at him so that he cowers in fear. She doesn't even have to ask. With one hand on her amulet, her eyes glow brighter.

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY, CAVE EXIT - CONTINUOUS

The team exits the cave from the other side and sees the Bloodrubi city laid out before them, a city built in stone.

(CRANE UP ON THE CITY)

Nancy (via telepathy)

There's an uprising in the city. It appears Chief Belsha wants to silence his own people. Change of plans. We are going after Belsha first.

EXT. BELSHA'S LAIR - DAY

Belsha's lair stands as a fortress, guarded by soldiers due to the civil unrest. Gango and Rasha fall upon the patrolling soldiers from the sky and knock them out with stealth. Others fall unconscious after inhaling Gango's soporific breath. Silverbee and Penga swoop in, launching a surprise attack on the soldiers. They engage in tail bashing, stomping, and throwing. Nancy activates her NULLIFYING MAGIC, causing all crystal-based weapons, gadgets, and vehicles within Belsha's compound to shut down. Bolt spears become useless, flying craft crashes to the ground, and crystal lights lose their power.

With one hand on her amulet, all she does is point her hand at the crystals and immediately their magic fails, being subject to her. The soldiers resort to traditional weapons, drawing swords and arrows. Silverbee shields Nancy with her wings, arrows bouncing off harmlessly against her scales.

A few mind invaders among the bloodrubi send illusions to attack Nancy, but Silverbee easily swats them away with her tail. Horns in her tail gather faint vapor.

The dragons unleash their fiery breath, overwhelming the bloodrubi soldiers who have no defense against it. As the bloodrubi soldiers go up in flames, they surrender, throwing down their weapons. Now Nancy has the freedom to open the huge doors and enter the hall where Belsha hides with a few guards.

INT. BELSHA'S LAIR - CONTINUOUS

Vapor from the activated mind invasion magic gathers in the room, but Silverbee's mighty roar blows it all away.

SILVERBEE

Your petty magic won't help you now.

The guards bow before Nancy, putting down their weapons in submission and surrender.

SILVERBEE

(a short sharp laugh)

A little too late for that.

Nancy raises her hand to calm Silverbee. She walks towards Belsha, who sits on a throne-like chair in the hall. His face is bandaged, hiding the eye he lost. He scowls with annoyance and fury, realizing how he underestimated Nancy.

SILVERBEE

(grows at Belsha)

You are in her seat!

Belsha gets up, stepping away from the chair, allowing Nancy to sit in it. As Nancy is getting comfortable, Silverbee is not done bullying Belsha.

SILVERBEE

On your knees for her royal highness!

Belsha, with Silverbee breathing down his neck, has no choice but to kneel and lower his head

SILVERBEE

If you want to live, bring the elders here quickly.
Time to appoint a new chief.

The guards comply. Other dragons enter the hall. They stand by Nancy. Silverbee notices some maids in the corner.

SILVERBEE

Bring refreshments for the princess. If you poison her, I will burn everyone in this city.

The maids quickly obey, fearing Silverbee's threats.

CUT

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY, PRISON - LATER

Nancy, accompanied by her five dragons, leads the bloodrubi army towards the prison where a riot has broken out. Tiana and her comrades have built barricades in anticipation of an attack, but Nancy and her dragons do not approach aggressively. Tiana, armed and wary, steps forward to meet Nancy, who approaches the barricade unarmed. The two talk amongst themselves. Tiana looks back at the prisoners and raises her hand. There is nothing to fear.

CUT

Tiana moves out of the way of Nancy's vision so she can see Ben lying down. He is unconscious so she suspects the worst. Nancy hurries and kneels before him. She cradles his head. The rebels throw down their weapons, and the dragons gather around Nancy and Ben. Tiana gives them their space.

CUT

They carefully place Ben on Silverbee's back, and Nancy rides with him to ensure his safety. Silverbee flaps her powerful wings and takes off into the sky. The other dragons follow suit.

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY, CLIFF'S EDGE - DAY

Tiana chases after the departing dragons. She stops at the edge of a cliff, and she calls out desperately.

TIANA

Earthling...!

Unfortunately, her voice fails to reach the dragons.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. BEN'S ROOM, MANSION MATTHIAS - DUSK

Ben regains consciousness to find himself in his room at Mansion Matthias. The dogs stand over him, watching him intently. They start licking him and jumping on him to express their joy. The room is dimly lit - it's already dusk. Matthias enters the room, signaling others to walk out.

INT. CHAMBER, MANSION MATTHIAS - DUSK

Ben takes a warm shower.

CUT

He puts on a change of clothes.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, GRAND STAIRCASE - DUSK

As Ben descends the grand staircase, Nancy is waiting for him at the doors. She turns to look at him and then runs into his embrace. They hold each other tightly, cherishing the moment. Ben chuckles with delight, feeling grateful to see Nancy again and feel her embrace.

NANCY

I am glad that you are okay.

BEN

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

NANCY

Come, I want you to meet some of my friends.

Nancy pulls Ben's hand, leading him outside.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS, GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Ben stands before the team of dragons.

BEN

I would like to thank everyone for coming to my rescue. If you hadn't come, I wouldn't be standing here now. You are all my heroes.

The group reacts with delight and swarm around him. They have many questions for him regarding his planet. Nancy clears her throat to get everyone's attention.

NANCY

Everyone, gather around!

(even the dogs join the group)

Not everyone here is a fan of long speeches, obviously, seeing we are a rowdy group given to action and adventure, so I will keep this short.

(everyone agrees with her)

You are just agreeing with me because you are eager for the party to get started, aren't you?

PENGA

I am starving!

BEN

(leans towards Matthias, questioning)

There is a party?

Nancy, overhearing the conversation, interrupts.

NANCY

Yes, there is a party for you, Ben! Surprise!

The group joins in, shouting,

ALL (IN UNISON)

Surprise!

Suddenly, a CATERING TEAM emerges from the backyard, setting up tables, chairs, and grills. They start preparing food. Ben is genuinely moved by Nancy's gesture.

BEN

Well, well. Thank you.

NANCY

For those of you who might not know what this is all about, allow me. Ben is not from this world. He has been with us 2 weeks. Tomorrow I open the portal that sends him home. Tonight is his last night with us.

The group falls silent, confusion. Whispers fill the air.

SILVERBEE

(loudly)

He's leaving?

(Everyone shushes her)

NANCY

I want to thank all of you for your support and help in keeping Ben safe.

(ANGLE ON: MATTHIAS)

Matthias, thank you for opening your mansion to us.

(Ben smiles and rubs Matthias's shoulders)

(ANGLE ON: WONDERBEE)

Wonderbee, thank you for always seeing the big picture and having Ben's back.

(Wonderbee bows slightly)

(ANGLE ON: SILVERBEE)

Silverbee, thank you for assembling a brilliant team and coming to our aid.

SILVERBEE

Anytime, princess.

(ANGLE ON: BEN)

NANCY

And Ben... You were a delightful surprise.

(BEAT)

Everyone can say their farewells now. Let's eat, have fun, and cherish the time we have left.

Ben's appetite wanes at her words.

CUT

Nancy takes Ben by the hand and leads him to the cakes table. She begins offering him bits of every offering.

CUT

The dragons hurl a green ball into the air, and Silverbee shoots a white flame that ignites the ball, creating a spectacular fireworks display. Ben and Nancy stand closer together, enjoying the show. Ben finds Nancy's hand and interlocks his fingers with hers. They stand there and they do not say anything.

CUT

After the show, they release their interlocked hands to clap. Wonderbee comes to her to announce that it was time to leave. Nancy looks around at the dragons and dogs, who all bow to her to bid her goodnight. Only Ben stands, and he is smiling at her. She smiles back. Wonderbee takes her on her back and they fly off into the night.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - NIGHT

Ben watches as Penga, Gango, and Rasha fly away, bidding them farewell. The dogs are settling in for the night, and Ben contemplates turning in as well.

SILVERBEE

This is your last night here and you want to waste it all on sleep?

Silverbee is sitting nearby so Ben walks up to her.

BEN

It's not like there's anything else to do.

SILVERBEE

In that case, I would like to show you something.

(rising)

Consider yourself lucky that I am letting you ride me a second time.

BEN

Um...

(steals a glance towards the mansion but)

Why not?

Silverbee lowers her head, and Ben grabs hold of her horn. She throws him onto her back.

SILVERBEE

First time?

(Ben nods)

Hold on tight then and try not to fall off.

She takes off into the sky then and there like a bullet, surprising Ben who was still preparing himself.

EXT. SKY AND GROUND - CONTINUOUS

Silverbee took off suddenly, propelling the both of them into the air. G's of force threaten to throw Ben off her back. Ben's heart leaps into his mouth, unsure if Silverbee was trying to kill him. Despite the initial shock however, Ben's grip endures as he realizes they are already hundreds of feet in the air, climbing and climbing. He suppresses his fear of heights, knowing it's too late to turn back now.

With each powerful flap of Silverbee's wings, the muscles in her neck move, distributing the force throughout her body. Ben adjusts his movements to match the wave-like flow of her neck muscles, allowing them to fly in perfect harmony. He secures himself by embracing her neck with his legs.

Silverbee, noticing Ben's acclimation to her speed, performs a dizzying spin in the wind, showcasing her aerial skills.

(BEN'S POV)

Ground and sky turn like the pages of a book.

Silverbee ascends higher into the sky, reaching a peak determined by her. She then flips backward, entering a thrilling free fall. Ben holds on tight, fear coursing through him as the ground rushes up to meet them. Just as he fears impact, Silverbee spreads her wings wide, slowing their descent, and propelling them forward like a fired missile.

SILVERBEE

Is there anything in your home world that can compare?

BEN

There is nothing like this!

SILVERBEE

I can't hear you!

BEN

No!

SILVERBEE

Is there anyone like me on Earth?

BEN

Are you kidding? You are gorgeous!

Silverbee laughs. She continues to perform aerial tricks, thrilling Ben.

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY, SKY - NIGHT

Silverbee is flying with Ben into a valley when they suddenly vanish. They reappear half a kilometer away. They just teleported.

BEN

(noticing the jump)

What just happened?

CUT

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY, LAND - NIGHT

Ben and Silverbee are standing before an invisible barrier, only perceptible because it shimmers from time to time.

BEN

A barrier? To keep people out or in?

SILVERBEE

You are about to find out. Barriers are not an issue for dream-walkers.

BEN

You know about that?

SILVERBEE

I was sharing a mind with the princess for half a day. Of course, I know. So, will you take a look?

BEN

Okay. But I might need a little time to meditate. I am still a beginner at magic.

SILVERBEE

I will instruct you. Close your eyes.

Ben faces the barrier, skeptical, but then he closes his eyes.

SILVERBEE

Visualize this action: wave your hands until you feel a tingling sensation in your eyes. It doesn't have to be strong.

BEN

I am feeling it.

SILVERBEE

Perfect. In your vision, take a step toward the barrier.

ASTRAL PROJECTION START:

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY, OUTSIDE BARRIER - NIGHT

Ben is standing before his physical body in an astral double.

BEN (PHYSICAL BODY)

I am at the barrier now.

Ben has achieved dual consciousness. His physical body speaks and his astral body sees and hears.

SILVERBEE (PHYSICAL BODY)

Push forward and enter.

Ben's astral double stretches his hand and then he steps forward and enters the barrier.

EXT. ROTONIAN CAMP, INSIDE BARRIER - CONTINUOUS

BEN (V.O)

(to Silverbee)

I see tents. Many of them.

Ben's astral double is looking at hundreds of tents pitched in the valley.

SILVERBEE (V.O)

You are a quick study. What else can you tell me?

He moves closer to a tent and he sees a crest.

BEN (V.O)

There is a crest. In green, a wolf is standing holding two spears like a man.

SILVERBEE (V.O)

That is the crest of the Rotonis army.

BEN

Rotonis... not Onis?

Ben's astral double levitates higher, and he sees rows of TENTS that are in the thousands, and he sees WEREWOLVES patrol the area. They crawl on fours and look around, and then they rise and walk on two legs.

BEN (V.O)

Silverbee, this is a werewolf army!

(fearful)

What is a foreign army doing on Onis' soil?

SILVERBEE (V.O)

Isn't it obvious? They are planning an invasion.

He gazes toward the center of the camp. There is a purple light illuminating that area so he begins to glide, drawn towards it.

EXT. ROTONIAN CAMP, LADY SU'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

A group of crystals on tall iron stands form a hexagram around a tent. Ben's astral double stops here.

LADY SU

(to Ben's astral double)

Who or what are you?!

A girl of about 12 years old (**LADY SU, 153 OLD HORNED ELF**) is standing on the entrance. She has flaming orange hair in a braid and bright blue eyes. Her skin is light brown. Her DRESS shimmers as it catches the purple light from the crystals on the stands. She is bare footed. She is holding a WOODEN STAFF whose tip is a carving of a hand whose purpose is to hold a CLEAR WHITE CRYSTAL.

BEN (V.O)

You can see me?

LADY SU

Are you a ghost or alive?

SILVERBEE (V.O)

Who are you talking to?

BEN (V.O)

(to Silverbee)

There is a little girl who can see my dream form.

LADY SU

How rude of you to judge by appearances. I am 153 years old, remote viewer.

SILVERBEE (V.O)

(panicking)

Ben, that's a sorceress - you need to get out of there. Open your eyes if you have to!

Lady Su points her staff at him, ready to act.

LADY SU

I forbid you from leaving just yet.

(reciting an incantation)

"Whatsoever is bound on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever is loosed on earth shall be loosed in heaven." I command you - stay in this place!

She taps her staff on the ground, creating a mystical force that holds Ben in place. He tries ghosting but to no avail. He is only blinking in and out of visibility. He struggles.

BEN (V.O)

Silverbee, what's happening? I can't open my eyes or leave the barrier!

Lady Su points her staff at Ben once again, and the crystal at its end glows. A powerful force pulls Ben's ghostly form towards her. She casts him to the ground before her.

LADY SU

Why don't I bring your body here to join us, seeing you are not dead at all but alive?

(reciting another incantation)

"You have faith, and I have works: show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." I command your body - come be joined to your spirit!

She taps her staff on the ground again, intensifying her spell.

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY, OUTSIDE BARRIER - CONTINUOUS

Silverbee watches in horror as Ben's physical body is sucked into the barrier. She attempts to follow but is abruptly teleported to the other end of the valley. Just like before, the barrier rejects her.

ASTRAL PROJECTION END

EXT. ROTONIAN CAMP, LADY SU'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

Ben's physical and ghostly forms merge, allowing him to open his eyes normally. However, the soldiers in human form, now aware of his presence, surround him and they throw fists and kicks against him. Ben defends himself. Silverbee roars out and momentarily distracts the soldiers, drawing their attention towards the terrifying sight outside the protective barrier.

LADY SU

Don't hurt him. Bring him here.

Two SOLDIERS grab Ben and forcefully drop him at the sorceress' feet. Silverbee continues to roar and fly above the barrier.

LADY SU

(re - Silverbee)

Looks like someone is angry.

(to Ben who is forced to his knees)
Is that your dragon? It looks quite formidable. The
best I can do is deflect it forever like this.

Ben glances around, observing the mostly dreadlocked soldiers
waking up and emerging from their tents in light armor.

BEN

If you kill me, you will go to war with the dragons.

LADY SU

Then, we'll simply detain you.

(BEAT)

By the way, I've bound your magic. I can't have you
snooping around my camp.

Ben's is not enthused to hear that.

INT. PRISON ENCLOSURE, INSIDE BARRIER - NIGHT

Ben finds himself locked up inside a makeshift prison enclosure.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. PALACE, PASSAGE NEAR THE STUDY - MORNING

Nancy and Spot come before two huge doors guarded by two guards
- erect and furry apes in armor.

GUARD ONE

Just in time.

Nancy holds her amulet for a second and looks at them
confidently.

NANCY

The password is 'Huku-Yanaka'.

(**SUBTITLE:** Delicious-Chicken)

GUARD TWO

And she gets it again.

Then they open the doors for her.

NANCY

Thank you.

She and Spot then waltz in before the doors are shut again.

INT. THE STUDY - CONTINUOUS

Nancy stands in a wide room adorned with celestial maps. The constellations are intricately carved and painted across the floor, walls, and ceiling.

NANCY

(whirling, playful)

"The Study."

She approaches a row of levers at the far end of the room.

NANCY

A princess should have unlimited access to such technology.

A lever shuts the curtains. In the dark, she pulls another lever, and suddenly, three-dimensional holograms light up the space. The holograms showcase the entire universe, with galaxies stretching out in all directions. Nancy controls the display, zooming in on a mesmerizing spiral galaxy. Spot playfully chases after the stars, effortlessly passing through them. Gas clouds and nebulae, quasars and neutron stars, planets, asteroid fields, they see all. They reach the solar system. Nancy stops as the hologram of Earth fills the room, creating an illusion of standing in space.

NANCY

Mesmerizing.

Nancy locates another lever, opening the curtains and allowing light to flood the room, dimming the holographic Earth. The hologram sinks into the floor, vanishing from sight. Nancy rushes to a shelf and retrieves a scroll-like contraption.

NANCY

Now we can leave.

They exit the study.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - DAY

Nancy calls Matthias and his gang outside, her face stern.

NANCY

Where's Ben?

MATTHIAS

He and Silverbee took off in the night and haven't returned.

Nancy sits on the steps, her mind racing, anxiety creeping in. Time is ticking. Wonderbee pulls Matthias to the side, her voice a whisper, her eyes filled with accusation.

WONDERBEE

How could you let my sister take Ben away?

In the back, dogs bark. Nancy rises, her attention shifting.

NANCY

What's going on?

MATTHIAS

It can only be an intruder. Let's go check it out.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - BACKYARD - DAY

They arrive in the backyard, where dogs circle a caped figure. Nancy squints, recognizing the woman's form. It's a BLOODRUBI. One dog pounces on her, but she effortlessly flips him over and knocks the wind out of him. Two more dogs pounce, but she vaults over them using her BOLT SPEAR as a lever. When the dogs continue to bother her, she starts spinning her spear like a whirling blade. She jabs the spear into the ground and fires direct shot into it creating a temporary radius of electric shock that shocks anyone who gets too close. The dogs finally stay away. Balancing on the spear, she pushes herself upwards and stands on one leg on the spear's hilt. Everyone watching is in awe of her gymnastic feat. Her hood falls, revealing her face. It's TIANA from the Bloodrubi city.

WONDERBEE

That's the lady from the Bloodrubi city.

NANCY

Matthias, call your team off. I know her.

Nancy approaches Tiana, who steps down from her staff.

TIANA

Hi, Princess. Quite an interesting greeting this is.

NANCY

You will have to forgive my friends for being on edge.

TIANA

I am not mad. I commend their vigilance.

NANCY

(Nancy nods)

What brings you out here, Tiana?

TIANA

I am looking for my lord. Ben from Earth.

NANCY

(intrigued, surprised)

Is that so? How did that happen?

TIANA

Long story. Where is he?

NANCY

He's off somewhere... with someone's sister.

(tilting head at Wonderbee)

He's going back to Earth today.

SPOT

(approaching from the mansion)

I wish he doesn't come back in time.

TIANA

Oh, why is that, small guy?

SPOT

Everybody is thinking it. We all want him to stay.
What about you, Wonderbee?

WONDERBEE

I want him to stay.

MATTHIAS

Same here.

NANCY

It's not up to us. But if we were to ask him together...

TIANA

You guys think Ben will leave? I beg to differ. He will never leave his princess behind, alone.

Tiana stands before Nancy. Nancy's scroll beeps. She unfurls it to reveal a video of a spinning spiral.

NANCY

Time is up. The portal is opening.

They look to the sky as it lights up, the portal to Earth emerging. They are all bathed in blue light.

CUT

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - DAY

Nancy, eyes filled with anxiety, watches the PORTAL TO EARTH, which hangs ominously 200 meters above the ground. The 10 minutes are up now and she watches as the portal slowly closes. Nancy turns to her team, her gaze hard and determined.

NANCY

Where the hell is Silverbee?

WONDERBEE

We could track her right now.

NANCY

Today I can't. Duty calls.

TIANA

Leave that to me. I will find him.

NANCY

Wonderbee will help you. She can track her sister anywhere in the world.

WONDERBEE

You don't need me at the palace?

NANCY

It's fine. I am just meeting some visitors from the kingdom of Rotonis. Frankly, I would rather be here. If you find Silverbee just goofing off then you tell her I am so mad.

TIANA

You don't sound mad.

SPOT

She sounds relieved.

Everybody is chuckling now, the mood lighter.

NANCY

Well, she will tell her sister regardless... you know, for dramatic effect. And, if something serious is keeping them then do all you can to help.

Nancy takes Spot with her, leaving Tiana and Wonderbee with their mission.

EXT. ONIS CITY, STREETS - DAY

Prince **KAGAN** of Rotonis (**31, EXQUISITE DREADLOCKS AND BROWN SKIN**), a military genius and notorious womanizer, loves to flaunt his wealth. In a grand procession through the streets of Onis, Prince Kagan's carriage throws out gold coins, captivating the excited crowds. With a hundred soldiers on horseback and levitating bikes scouting ahead, the news of his arrival has caused businesses to close as people gather to catch a glimpse of the famous prince. The levitating carriages and the elaborate decorations on Kagan's carriage add to the pomp and fanfare that accompany him wherever he goes.

INT. PALACE, MAIN HALL - DAY

The royal family eagerly awaits Kagan's arrival in the main hall. Kagan, not wearing military attire or a princely suit, dons a scarlet garment and is adorned with expensive jewelry. Kagan respectfully offers his greetings to the king, who rises from his throne to shake his hand. The king expresses his delight in hosting a foreign prince who has accomplished much in his youth, military wise. Aunt Josephine, Esmeralda, and Nancy stand by the king's side, introduced to Kagan by the king.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Esmeralda did say you were handsome, and now I see you are extremely so.

KAGAN

The duchess always had kind words for me, but thank you.

(turns to Princess Nancy and bows)

Princess Nancy. You are as beautiful as the rumors say and I find myself unable to look away.

Nancy curtsies, eyeing her and Esmeralda, who giggle excitedly.

NANCY

I am not one to concern myself with appearances. I am sure all the kingdoms you conquered were first taken in by what you had on display for them. Tell me, Prince Kagan, how long do you plan on staying?

The king clears his throat, scolding Nancy for her rudeness. However, Kagan simply laughs it off.

KAGAN

Far be it from me to be hostile toward your kingdom. No, I am here to strengthen our ties.

The king steps in and orders the attendants to show Kagan to the living quarters prepared for him. Kagan has had a long journey and is supposed to take the rest of the day to relax and enjoy the hospitality provided by the palace.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Tiana and Wonderbee soar through the air, determined to find Ben and Silverbee. Tiana is following Wonderbee on her customized flying bike, sleek and compact compared to Nancy's royal bikes. It only accommodates two people. Wonderbee is using her family's instinct to track her sibling.

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY, OUTSIDE BARRIER - DAY

Silverbee opens her eyes, takes flight, and studies the spherical barrier before deciding to test her abilities. Exhaling a long breath, she causes fire to lick the edges of the barrier, which reacts by glowing red and teleporting the fire to the other side. Noticing this, Silverbee exhales fire that would explode on impact.

EXT. ROTONIAN CAMP, INSIDE BARRIER - CONTINUOUS

Silverbee's explosive fire engulfs the camp, spreading from tent to tent and incinerating soldiers and carriages along the barrier's walls. With the intensity of the hottest dragon fire, she continues her relentless attack, making the barrier borders extremely dangerous and challenging for the mages to contain.

SILVERBEE

(roaring)

Give him back!

(flying in circles)

Give him back to me or burn!

The soldiers below fearfully look up, realizing they are now faced with an unexpected battle against a formidable dragon.

DREAM START:

INT/EXT. DREAM PLANE, ENDLESS WATER FLOOR -??

In a dream-like place, Ben opens his eyes to find calm water extending into infinity, with only his own body providing light amidst the surrounding darkness. Bound by four strong chains connected to rock pillars, he realizes that his magic is indeed bound, as Lady Su's words foretold. Attempting to ghost, he discovers that the chains stubbornly resist his ability, posing a new challenge he has never encountered before.

DREAM END

EXT. ROTONIAN CAMP, LADY SU'S TENT - DAY

Lady Su emerges from her tent, alarmed by the chaos outside. The dragon outside the barrier is causing havoc with its fire. A blue-robed attendant rushes to Lady Su with urgent news.

ATTENDANT

Lady Su, the dragon demands the release of its rider, or it will continue to bombard us with its explosive fire!

INT. ROTONIAN CAMP, PRISON - CONTINUOUS

Ben watches with delight as Silverbee is causing a ruckus above the barrier. Soldiers approach the prison enclosure, and Ben realizes they have come for him. They force him out and lock the prison again.

EXT. LADY SU'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

Ben is brought to Lady Su's tent, where she waits for him with an annoyed expression. They force him to his knees.

BEN

What's wrong, Su? Miss me already?

LADY SU

Can't you tell your dragon to quiet down?

BEN

That's easy. Just let me go, or go back home.

LADY SU

I can't shake this feeling, that releasing you would spell doom. Why is that?

BEN

Release me and I'll flee in the opposite direction.

LADY SU

You won't flee. You want to protect someone.

BEN

Now you're just guessing.

LADY SU

I see only one way out of this problem. I have to rewrite your memories.

BEN

You will have to be very convincing.

LADY SU

Of course. I am about to create Elvestopia.

(seeing his confusion)

Elvestopia is a popular children's story.

(to her assistants)

Get me volunteers, say 300 men and women.

More crystals are brought out to prepare for a new barrier. Ben looks away, hesitant about having his memories erased.

LADY SU (CONT'D)

(moving to Ben with her staff raised)

You won't feel a thing.

Lady Su touches his head with her staff, and a bright flash knocks Ben unconscious.

DREAM START:

INT/EXT. DREAM-WALKER DOMAIN, WATER FLOOR -??

Lady Su is pulled into Ben's subconscious domain. Wall-less and with water for a floor, rigid as glass. Ben sits in the midst of four rock pillars, with chains extending to the collar in his neck, eyes closed, in deep sleep. Lady Su recognizes her magic, which she used to bind his dream walking abilities. She approaches him and points her staff toward his head.

LADY SU

"The world had become a waste and a void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." And in this void, I write my will.

She stomps the floor, the crystal on her staff glows brightly, and a ripple travels outwards. She turns to leave, but a boy's voice interrupts her.

VOICE

Where are you going?

Lady Su turns, and the world flips around. When she regains focus, she finds herself sitting in the middle of the four rock pillars, with the chains now around her neck. Ben is still asleep, but he sits a hundred meters away, free from any bindings. Confused, Lady Su tries to move, but the chains in her neck rattle and resist her.

LADY SU

What is this?

(points her staff at the chains)

Release!

(the chains remain)

Break!

The chains refuse to break. Frustrated, she looks around.

LADY SU

Show yourself!

A presence, in the form of a water bump, moves in the water below the surface. A small boy chuckles. The bump in the water morphs into a BOY MADE OF WATER, his lower body submerged. He leans forward, resting his head on his hand, fixated on Lady Su.

LADY SU

What are you?

The boy-form emerges from the water, gliding in the air. Lady Su raises her staff and begins to cast a spell.

LADY SU

Whatever is bound on the earth...

A chain materializes from a rock pillar and swiftly moves towards the boy, attempting to bind him.

WATER BOY

I reject!

The chain loses its power and crashes to the floor. Undeterred, Lady Su summons three more chains.

WATER BOY

I reject!

The chains crash down at his feet. Lady Su is amazed, but then she brings the crystal of her staff close to her mouth and blows on it. A gust of wind surrounds the boy, freezing him into a solid block of ice that falls to the floor.

WATER BOY (V.O.)

*"Arise, shine; for your light has come.
Glory and brilliance have risen upon you."*
I summon warmth...

Instantly, the ice thaws and the boy resumes his gliding form.

LADY SU

(delight)

Impossible.

She hurls flames of fire at the boy of water. The flames engulf him, turning him into vapor instantly.

WATER BOY (V.O)

Return!

The vapor then condenses back into water and takes on the form of the small boy who continues to glide above the surface.

LADY SU

How do you have access to magic in that form?

The manifestation approaches Lady Su, his face - flowing water.

WATER BOY

You are so annoying. Tell you what, if you treat my body well, I just might tell you.

LADY SU

Ben? I give you my word. Then we have a deal?

WATER BOY

You have permission of 3 visits. You are dismissed.

Without warning, the boy places his hand on Lady Su's head and pushes her down. She begins to sink into the floor. The chains that once bound her vanish, and the rock pillars disappear. With one final push, Lady Su sinks into the water like a rock.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT. SKY - DAY

Smoke billows from a fire, catching the attention of Tiana and Wonderbee. Wonderbee instinctively heads towards it and Tiana follows.

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY, OUTSIDE BARRIER - DAY

Silverbee sees Wonderbee approach with a companion so she comes out in the open so that they land before her. The barrier begins to transform. As they approach, mist-like clouds gather, forming a CLOUD PILLAR. The fires die down, and Ben emerges from the cloud wall, surprising everyone.

WONDERBEE

Ben, you're okay!

Ben and Wonderbee embrace. Ben laughs as she picks him up. Silverbee approaches the cloud wall cautiously to investigate it.

BEN

(noticing Tiana)

Tiana? What are you doing here?

Tiana gets down on one knee and she produces a DAGGER WITH A BLUE BLADE in its sheathing and offers it to Ben with both her hands.

TIANA

This is from the guys you saved down in the dungeons. You left without giving them a chance to express their gratitude. Most of us decided to call you 'Lord'.

Ben takes the dagger and examines it, impressed by its glowing blue color.

BEN

It's beautiful. Please thank them for me.

TIANA

They will be joining us soon. They consider themselves your subordinates now.

BEN

Subordinates?

Tiana, still on her knee, holds out her sheathed sword.

TIANA

This is my sword. I offer it in service to you. Pull it out of its sheathe if you accept, leave it if you do not.

Ben kneels before Tiana, holding her hands gently.

BEN

Tiana, I do not understand your world yet. For now, I would rather have you as a friend than a servant.

Tiana smiles at Ben's response.

SILVERBEE

What happened in there? What about the Rotonis army?

They get up.

BEN

There is no army, just a detachment from Rotonis that got separated from its Prince who I am told is visiting. I misunderstood. But behind the barrier is an incredible world. I'll show you.

Ben disappears into the cloud wall, and Tiana rushes after him. Wonderbee follows, and Silverbee, annoyed but determined, enters as well.

SILVERBEE

If I sense any sorcery messing with my mind, I am going to unleash hell. Everything will...

EXT. INSIDE BARRIER, ELVESTOPIA - CONT'D

They emerge on the other side to find a breathtaking paradise. Ben stands with a group of FOREST ELVES dressed in animal hides and dyed green cloth.

BEN

Guys, welcome to Elvestopia!

The group stands in awe.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT. ELVESTOPIA - MORNING

Nancy stands inside Elvestopia, amazed at what she is seeing.

NANCY

(whispering to herself)

What the hell?

(REWIND TIME TO: EARLY MORNING)

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - EARLY MORNING

(TEXT: EARLIER)

Wonderbee and Silverbee arrive at the old mansion where they find Nancy waiting for them.

(A LITTLE LATER)

NANCY

(relieved)

I am glad none of you were hurt. Even if it turned out to be a misunderstanding, thank you for waiting for him.

Silverbee chuckles happily, but Wonderbee disapproves.

WONDERBEE

Seriously, sis? Accepting compliments after such a screw-up?

SILVERBEE

(smile fades, becomes serious)

I'm not entirely sure about Elvestopia yet. There's a powerful sorceress there who manipulates barriers skillfully. Don't let your guard down in there too much.

NANCY

(nods)

Got it.

SILVERBEE

If you need anything, just send word and I'll come back immediately.

NANCY

(chuckles, teases)

You care about Ben that much, huh? Who would have thought?

WONDERBEE

(laughing)

She's even kinder than I am. It took me two weeks to like Ben, not just one day.

SILVERBEE

(irritated)

Fine, don't send for me then.

Silverbee takes off and flies away.

NANCY

Oops, we made her angry.

WONDERBEE

She'll be fine. Come, I'll take you to Ben.

Wonderbee gives Nancy a ride.

CUT TO:

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY, CLOUD PILLAR - MORNING

So Wonderbee brings Nancy to the site where Elvestopia has appeared. Ben is waiting with Tiana outside before the pillar of cloud.

BEN

Hi princess. I am sorry I missed the portal.

Nancy comes and buries herself in his embrace. Ben can say no more except to hold her close. She is just glad that he is okay. He takes her inside Elvestopia through the cloud pillar.

EXT. ELVESTOPIA, INSIDE BARRIER - CONTINUOUS

(TEXT: NOW)

NANCY

(whispering to herself)

What the hell?

Ben takes Nancy's hand to go show her around. Tiana follows a few paces behind as she is acting as Ben's bodyguard. They go around the elf village.

They meet the **CHIEF (50'S)** and are assigned a tour guide, **ZINDA (30'S, ELF, BOYISH APPEARANCE)**. Ben also takes her to meet the sorceress, **LADY SU**, whom Ben is fascinated with because of her knowledge of magic.

Nancy is just glad that Ben seems to love it here. There is a small detachment of **ROTONIAN SOLDIERS** who are camping here. They had stumbled upon Elvestopia as well and would leave soon when the prince's stay in the capital is up. It is this camp that Ben had seen but there was no cause for worry. They are not in the thousands at all.

EXT. ELVESTOPIA - DAY

Nancy and Ben have a private moment.

BEN

They love you.

NANCY

It's even crazy that this place actually exists. My aunt would love it here.

Nancy's device beeps, indicating time for her to leave.

NANCY

I have to go. I know there is another 2 weeks before I can open the portal again, and I am sorry about that.

BEN

Nancy, I have decided to stay.

NANCY

What?

BEN

I am staying. I cannot say for how long though, but I don't think I am ready to leave just yet.

CUT

INT. PALACE - DAY

Nancy wanders through the palace, her face glowing with happiness. She seems to be in a dreamlike state.

FLASHBACK START:

EXT. ELVESTOPIA - DAY

NANCY

Oh, what made you decide on staying?

Ben releases a low grunt as he contemplates.

BEN

I am in love.

Nancy's heart skips a beat.

NANCY

Do you mean you've fallen in love with Xeronis? That's not surprising.

Nancy looks around, but Ben takes her hand,

BEN

No, Nancy. I'm in love with you.
(now he has her full attention)

You are kind and caring, and always worrying about me. How can I not fall in love? How can I ever leave? I want to spend more time with you and get to know you better.

Nancy's timekeeping device beeps again, interrupting their moment. She tears her gaze away from Ben to shut it down.

NANCY

Before I leave, I want you to know that I'm in love too. You're always on my mind and in my heart, wherever I am. This experience is new to me, but much treasured.

Nancy walks into Ben's embrace, sealing their love.

FLASHBACK END

INT. PALACE, MUSIC HALL - DAY

Nancy joins her aunt, Esmeralda and Kagan in the music hall to listen to a live performance from hired MUSICIANS.

INT. PALACE, CORRIDOR - DAY

Nancy walks through a corridor, wearing a cape. She catches a glimpse of her aunt disappearing into the gardens. Deciding to rush after her, Nancy heads towards the gardens.

EXT. PALACE, GARDENS - DAY

Nancy arrives at the gardens, only to find her path blocked by a massive palace brick wall. After activating her search magic, she discovers hidden palm prints that unlock the wall, revealing a hidden path towards the city.

EXT. CITY - DAY

Nancy spots her aunt making a turn ahead. Nancy follows.

EXT. CITY HALL, SIDE ENTRANCE - DAY

Aunt Josephine enters a hall through a side entrance, going through a guard (**MR. KINSLEY, 40'S**). Nancy attempts to walk right in but he stops her.

MR. KINSLEY

Hall's closed off at the moment, young miss. You can come back an hour later.

Nancy walks back and stops around a corner. She digs out three small diamonds from her pouch and hurls one, hitting the Mr. Kinsley's neck. He notices the precious stone. Another diamond hits him in the left cheek. He looks in the direction it came from, but Nancy has already ducked around the corner for cover. She throws another stone down and retreats. Mr. Kinsley picks up the diamond and heads towards the corner. He finds no one there except the small diamond on the ground. As he bends down to pick it up, Nancy enters the hall behind him.

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

The hall is packed. Aunt Josephine is sitting on a large table engaged in a discussion with men in suits. Papers are scattered on the desk, and one of the men passes them to Aunt Josephine. Nancy pulls her hood over her face, attempting to hide her identity.

Nancy looks closely and recognizes the administration team from various guilds, including ADVENTURERS, MERCHANTS, FARMERS, and ENGINEERS. Even the attendees are guild members. Nancy realizes she wasn't invited due to her low ranking as an adventurer. Aunt Josephine looks up from the papers and begins to speak audibly.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(addressing the crowd)

I am aware that the Rotonian prince's visit has flooded the streets with gold coins, but is that enough reason for the merchants to cause a hike in prices? The poor have no rest. Return the prices to normal. This is not up for discussion.

The man representing the merchants opens his mouth to provide reasons but sits back down when he sees Aunt Josephine's dismissive attitude.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(addressing the crowd)

What are the engineers still doing? Is the bridge construction over Save River not yet complete? Do you need more men?

ENGINEER REPRESENTATIVE

There is a creature in the river terrorizing the workers. We've requested soldiers to assist but not once did they show up.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

The Adventurers guild will handle it.

Nancy's attention is fully captured.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

There is subtle military action against our kingdom. Any news from the reconnaissance team?

ADVENTURER REPRESENTATIVE

Bloodrubis withdrew their troops a few days ago.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Something must have happened.

ADVENTURER REPRESENTATIVE

They have changed their chief.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

I hope they put in someone friendlier than Belsha. He was a pain to deal with. Did something happen to him?

ADVENTURER REPRESENTATIVE

They are not saying.

Aunt Josephine moves on to the next paper.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Taxes...?

Murmuring fills the hall. The news doesn't seem to be well-received by the attendees. Suddenly, the doors burst open, and Mr. Kinsley rushes in. All eyes turn towards him.

MR. KINSLEY

Guilds master, I have just been tricked. There's a spy inside!

Whispers spread throughout the hall.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(standing up, authoritative)

Everybody, do not panic! Adventurers, man the doors!

Two high-ranked ADVENTURERS teleport to the doors to secure it. The lookout scans the room, searching for the spy.

MR. KINSLEY

(pointing at Nancy)

It's her! She's the spy!

NANCY

(protesting)

I'm not a spy!

Aunt Josephine orders the men to bring Nancy forward. They hold her hands and lead her to the stage.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(to Nancy)

Who are you? Or rather, who sent you?

(Nancy does not reply)

Can someone remove her head cover?

A man flips Nancy's hood back, revealing her face. The hall falls silent. Aunt Josephine is taken aback, not expecting to see her niece.

VOICE FROM THE CROWD

Isn't that 23?

MORE VOICES

Bronze-ranked adventurers are not allowed in here!

ANOTHER VOICE

She looks a lot like the princess.

Ruckus continues until Aunt Josephine demands silence.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Nancy? What are you doing here?

NANCY

(realizing her secret is out)

It seems I'm not the only one with a double life.

Aunt Josephine looks around at her colleagues.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(to the crowd)

You can all relax. This is no spy. I take this opportunity to introduce you all to my niece. Most of you know her as 23.

(She whispers to Nancy)

You can stand tall and let them see you now. No need to be shy.

Nancy smiles. The men in the hall cheer, whistle, and compliment her beauty.

GENTLEMAN FROM MERCHANT GUILD

(to Aunt Josephine)

We know her as goofy and boyish, but she is quite a beautiful lady.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(teasingly)

She enjoys playing dress-up.

Everyone laughs. Aunt Josephine addresses the crowd.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

We are going to have to postpone and finish this some other time.

The crowd agrees, but Nancy expresses regret.

NANCY

Oh no, please. Don't stop on my account.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Well, as you can see, we were not looking forward to being surprised.. by you of all people. Obviously, you

and I need to talk, and now would be the best time, on our way back to you know where.

Nancy shrugs, accepting the situation.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(to the crowd)

Gentlemen, thank you for your understanding.

The men by the table bow as Aunt Josephine and Nancy are escorted out of the hall.

EXT. PALACE, GARDENS - LATER

Nancy and her aunt remove their capes as they enter the gardens and fold them up. They stop for a bit to enjoy the scenery and to just bask in the sun. Nancy holds onto her aunt's hand and rests her head on her shoulder.

NANCY

So, guilds master heh?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(chuckles)

Did you honestly think I was just going to leave you all alone in the city? What if something happened to you? How would I ever face your mother?

NANCY

Yeah, I get that. But... all the guilds?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Don't be silly. I started the guilds before you learnt how to spell your name.

NANCY

Oh, you are a busy one.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Like you are one to talk. You have explored more planets than I'd dare count. What were you even looking for? Xeronis is vast enough.

NANCY

I guess I was responding to someone calling my name...?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

You mean your secret lover?

NANCY

You have your secret occupation and you don't hear me complaining.

Then they are walking toward the corridors. They see Esmeralda walking up to them.

NANCY

(to her aunt)

Continue this later?

Her aunt nods.

INT. KING'S BEDCHAMBER - MORNING

Beams of sun shafts fall into the king's bedchamber. Nancy stoops over her father in her nightdress and shakes him up. The king opens his eyes and is surprised to find her here.

KING GORDON

Nancy... what are you doing here?

NANCY

Good morning. I sneaked here.

Nancy sits on a chair near the bed. The king pushes himself up to sit propped by a pillow.

KING GORDON

Is this about Prince Kagan?

NANCY

I'm not here to talk about him, yet. I'm here to talk about me... about my mother.

Gordon shifts uncomfortably and Nancy sees.

NANCY (CONT'D)

I believe I'm old enough to know the truth. I have checked documents, but they are mostly redacted. My mother, what happened to her?

The king sighs. Nancy isn't going to leave without answers.

KING GORDON

Come sit close.

Nancy comes to sit on the bed beside him.

KING GORDON

I was still just a prince when I met your mother, Anna. She and Josephine came from another world.

NANCY

Planet Earth, to be specific.

KING GORDON

I forget Jose turned it into a bed time story.

NANCY

She had to. You were a hero.

(Gordon chuckles)

You fought and protected them against a law that would have executed them based on a travel ban, even at the risk of your prince-hood.

KING GORDON

They were worth it.

NANCY

So, will you tell me? Who poisoned my mother?

KING GORDON

There is a reason why we redacted those documents.

NANCY

I won't go burning villages in the name of vengeance. No, you raised me better than that.

KING GORDON

I'd like to think I did. Believe in your father. Don't dig up this past. But there is something I can tell

you. Nancy, you are not just the princess of one kingdom. You are the princess of planet Xeronis. All the kingdoms on this planet will one day bow down to you.

NANCY

Do you mean I will create an empire through conquest?

KING GORDON

No, there is already an office of planetary leader. You were enthroned by the Ancient One, your godmother.

NANCY

The Enchantress?

KING GORDON

She came to us when you were just a year old and announced to the world, 'Here is your new Princess of planet Xeronis'. And she came again before your mother's passing and did something for the both of you.

FLASHBACK START:

INT. QUEEN ANNA'S CHAMBERS - DAY

(TEXT: 16 YEARS AGO)

A serene room with soft lighting. **QUEEN ANNA (27)**, bedridden and weak, sits in a wheelchair, accompanied by the **ENCHANTRESS (OVER 1000, LOOKS 50)**. Light emanates from her, occasionally rendering her translucent like a ghost, though she is not.

ENCHANTRESS

(with a gentle smile)

Nancy's status as the princess of the planet has been recognized globally.

Nancy, a **YOUNG CHILD OF 1**, crawls on the ground, playing with the Enchantress's flowing white dress.

QUEEN ANNA

(weakly)

When I am gone, Josephine will become her mother. You will have her when she is past her teens.

Anna gazes at Nancy lovingly.

QUEEN ANNA

(sighing)

How I wish I could be around to witness her growth.

ENCHANTRESS

You know, I can extract a part of your consciousness and tie it to Nancy's amulet. That part of you will remain alive, a ghost, to be her tiny voice of conscience, guiding and comforting her.

QUEEN ANNA

I choose that. I choose it with all my heart.

The Enchantress extends her hand, capturing an invisible light from Anna's head. She then touches Nancy's AMULET, which Anna always keeps close to her.

QUEEN ANNA

Is it done?

ENCHANTRESS

(nodding)

It's done.

FLASHBACK END

INT. KING'S BED CHAMBER - MORNING

Nancy, with tears streaming down her cheeks, sits on the bed facing her father. He tenderly brushes away a tear with his finger.

NANCY

(clasps her amulet tightly in both hands)

Mother, you were here all along with me?

I've missed you so much.

More tears flow down Nancy's cheeks, her emotions overwhelming her. Gordon, too, tears up as he looks at his daughter, reminded of the woman he loved and lost.

KING GORDON

You look so much like her.

They embrace.

FADE OUT

**FADE IN:
DREAM START:**

EXT. ELVESTOPIA, RIVER - DAY

Some elves are fishing with spears. Ben and Tiana stand on a small golden bridge. Ben looks at the shallow parts of the river. He sees his reflection and pauses to study it. Realization dawns on him.

BEN

This is a dream.

CUT

INT/EXT. BEN'S SUBCONSCIOUS DOMAIN, ENDLESS WATER FLOOR

Lady Su is standing in a dark space with water as the floor. She senses a presence near her.

LADY SU

Show yourself.

YOUNG BOY (V.O)

You're back?

LADY SU

You gave me your word. I came for answers.

YOUNG BOY (V.O)

Curiosity never did much for the cat, nor for Pandora.

LADY SU

Is that supposed to mean something? A warning?

YOUNG BOY (V.O)

What price will you pay for knowledge?

Lady Su sits down.

LADY SU

I am listening.

CUT
DREAM ENDS

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Ben stands in the river with a spear in hand, tracking a fish. With one swift thrust, he catches the fish to the applause of the crowd. Ben is now tasked with filling a basket with fish against a timer, and he impresses everyone with his skills. Standing on the banks with the crowd is Tiana and Lady Su.

TIANA

You mean to say he learnt all this from just one dream he had this morning?

LADY SU

The mark of all dream-walkers... Envious, right?

TIANA

You seem more star-struck than all of us. You are investigating his magic, aren't you? What have you learned so far?

LADY SU

A lot. His magic is unusual.

TIANA

Is that all you can say? Unusual?

LADY SU

For now.

Lady Su turns to leave, but Tiana stops her.

TIANA

I would like to train him in combat using his dreaming ability. Can you help?

LADY SU

Tomorrow.

Lady Su then leaves.

EXT. ELVESTOPIA, SKY - DAY

Ben and Nancy fly on their flying bike, soaring above the rivers of Elvestopia, cutting through the forests like a majestic bird. Nancy takes control, with Ben securely holding onto her waist. The closeness between them makes Nancy giddy, and she playfully flips the bike, forcing Ben to hold on tighter.

CUT

INT. ELVESTOPIA, ELF TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

Ben, Tiana, and Lady Su approach a group of skilled ELF WARRIORS. They had been watching their mock battles. Tiana approaches **ZITARE (A LITTLE OVER HUNDRED, LOOKS 24)**, the tallest elf, and places her hand on his shoulder. She looks back at Lady Su.

TIANA

(confidently)

He will instruct Ben just fine in the dream space.

Lady Su orders Ben and Zitare to sit before her. Tiana joins them, taking on the role of overseer for Ben's training. Lady Su taps her staff on the ground, causing them all to fall unconscious.

DREAM START:

INT/EXT. BEN'S SUBCONSCIOUS, ENDLESS WATER FLOOR - ??

An exposed night sky with millions of stars, colorful dust nebulae and planetary bodies floating in outer space, create a mesmerizing scene. As Lady Su takes in the beauty, a green lawn emerges, centered around a **LARGE LONE TREE** whose leaves and fruit emit a captivating glow and a soothing humming sound. This is the legendary wisdom tree.

She extends her staff towards the trunk of the tree, and when the crystal touches the wood, it emits a blinding white light that fills the space. Lady Su quickly withdraws her staff, needing a moment to readjust her eyes. Suddenly, a presence manifests itself in the form of a little boy surrounded by water.

MANIFESTATION

You have visited us again.

LADY SU

(points at the tree)

What is that?

MANIFESTATION

You know what it is.

LADY SU

I mean, what is it doing here?

MANIFESTATION

It was always here. Within darkness, great light conceals itself.

LADY SU

This is impossible.

MANIFESTATION

Is it really?

LADY SU

Why would Xeronis entrust him with this much power?

MANIFESTATION

That is not exactly what you want to know, is it?
We will ask you for a favor.

LADY SU

What do you need?

MANIFESTATION

We will tell you in time.

LADY SU

You're always asking me for things.

MANIFESTATION

We didn't reveal the wisdom tree just to pique your curiosity. We brought it as a gift. Approach and eat from it to unleash even greater magic.

LADY SU

Are you sure?

MANIFESTATION

You know you want to.

Lady Su approaches the tree, feeling like she's living the dream of many sorcerers. However, the manifestation stops her before she can reach for the fruits.

MANIFESTATION (CONT'D)

Your body can't handle that yet. Try eating just one leaf.

Lady Su plucks a leaf and eats it. The water floor she is standing on disappears and gravity takes over. Everything disappears and gives space to darkness.

DREAM END

INT. ELVESTOPIA - GROUNDS-AREA - DAY

Nancy arrives at Elvestopia and notices a group of elves gathered. They seem concerned about something. They part to make way for Nancy, revealing Ben, Tiana, and Zinda kneeling around an unconscious Lady Su. Nancy joins them, and just as they are about to explain what happened, Lady Su suddenly stirs, slowly opening her eyes and sitting up straight. Everyone is relieved.

LADY SU

What's going on? Why is everyone gathered?

BEN

Su, what happened? We woke up from the dream 30 minutes ago, but you didn't.

ZINDA

(shaken)

I tried to wake you, but you wouldn't respond.

LADY SU

It's okay, I'm fine. No need to worry. I just got held up.

People around her look at her with wonder and surprise.

BEN

Su, you're changing.

Su looks at her hands and sees them elongating, her fingers becoming longer. Her hair grows, and her horns lengthen. She touches herself and stands up, realizing she has grown taller. Now she can stand face to face with Ben without having to look up at him. Lady Su had the body of a 12-year-old despite being over 150 years old, but now she has the body of a **19-YEAR-OLD YOUNG WOMAN**. Her transformation leaves everyone in awe. However, her dress is now short.

Nancy has a cloak and she wraps it around Su. They move away from the crowd, heading towards Su's compound.

TIANA

We'll get an explanation from her later. Right now, we need to test Ben's sword skills.

Tiana drags Ben and some elf warriors with her.

EXT. ELVEN CAMP - NIGHT

A massive fire blazes in the center of the camp. Elves dance and drum around the flames, their movements synchronized to the rhythm. Ben approaches Nancy who is sitting on wooden benches nearby, laughing at the dancers.

BEN

(extends his hand)

May I have this dance?

Nancy hesitates, finding the idea of dancing like the elves peculiar, but she can't resist Ben's charm. She takes his hand, and they join the lively dancers, kicking, jumping, and shaking their hips.

EXT. SU'S TENT - NIGHT

After the dance, Ben spots Su so he approaches her to speak to her. When she sees him, she turns away and hurries towards her compound. She is clearly avoiding him. He follows but her assistants block his path, discouraging him. He is worried about her so Nancy comes to take him away.

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY, CLOUD PILLAR - NIGHT

Kagan is standing before the cloud pillar just outside Elvestopia with his subordinate. He had people follow Nancy to see where she goes. Kagan enters the cloud pillar.

EXT. ELVESTOPIA - NIGHT

Kagan emerges in Elvestopia and is surprised by the beautiful paradise before him. He seeks higher ground and uses his binoculars with night vision to inspect the area.

(KAGAN'S P.O.V)

Through the binoculars, Kagan spots the purple dragon that is the friend of the princess, and soon after he spots the princess who is holding hands with some young man, not hiding their intimate relationship at all. Kagan presses the scan button, and the binoculars reveal that Ben is an outsider from another planet.

(PAN TO: SU'S COMPOUND)

A young lady is standing outside Su's tent looking towards Kagan. She is holding Su's staff in her hand. Even with great distance between them, she obviously senses his presence. She then vanishes into thin air.

(BACK TO)

Su emerges from the woods and approaches Kagan. She bows and does not rise.

SU

Young prince, this is a surprise.

KAGAN

Is that you, sorceress? You look... different.

SU

It is I. I recently absorbed a concentrated amount of magic, causing me to grow a little.

KAGAN

Rise.

(Su obeys)

Where is my army?

SU

They are hidden under a veil.

KAGAN

Your barrier magic is impressive, but I sense a shake in your loyalty. Why was I not informed that the princess spends most of her time here?

SU

She surprised us by showing up on our doors. All resources were focused on hiding the army.

KAGAN

Who is that young man she's with?

SU

He is a guest. I am learning much from him.

KAGAN

His relationship with the princess conflicts with our plans. Dispose of him quickly.

(Su does not barge)

You are unwilling?

SU

I am under oath. No harm shall come upon him for as long as he is inside my barrier. But if he were to step outside, then you can do with him as you please.

Kagan becomes annoyed.

KAGAN

Bring your scribe.

Su turns her head towards the bushes.

SU

Approach.

Zinda emerges from the darkness and kneels before the prince. Kagan unsheathes a dagger and approaches Zinda, and then he buries the blade in his heart. He throws the dead elf away and begins to wipe the blood off his dagger with a cloth.

SU

Werewolf blood has always been strong in you. You do not always have to give in to its urges.

Kagan, now calmed, speaks.

KAGAN

I will send word soon so we can move to the next stage of our plan.

Kagan exits, leaving Su alone. Once she senses his departure from Elvestopia, she turns towards the bushes.

SU

Approach.

Zinda walks out from the darkness. As soon as he steps out, the body on the ground, made to look like him, turns to ash and vanishes.

ZINDA

He will be mad if he finds out I am still alive, my lady.

SU

I doubt he will even remember you. Take a two-month leave, just in case.

ZINDA

Yes, my lady.

They stand and watch Ben and Nancy, engrossed in their own world.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. PALACE, KING GORDON'S CHAMBERS - MORNING

The sun rises on the horizon of planet Xeronis. Nancy is seated on a chair beside the bed in her father's chambers. She is reading a book and waiting for him to wake.

KING GORDON

(awakening)

You again?

NANCY

Good morning, your highness.

KING GORDON

(slightly annoyed)

You're here to talk.

NANCY

Yes. I'm now ready to talk about Prince Kagan.

KING GORDON

I'll make arrangements for the wedding.

NANCY

(bursting)

No!

The king sits upright against his pillow.

KING GORDON

No? Then who will handle it?

NANCY

That's what I wanted to talk to you about. I know you wanted those bells to ring, but they're not going to. I'm not marrying him, dad.

KING GORDON

May I ask why?

NANCY

(hesitant)

I'm not ready, and I've only just met him. I don't want to rush into these things.

KING GORDON

It's understandable to get cold feet, but you'll be okay. Remember you're not doing this for yourselves only.

NANCY

I know. And I know with such a glittering resumé, it's hard to argue against a political marriage. But I have my concerns and my own dreams to think about.

KING GORDON

I would like to hear these concerns and dreams.

Nancy sighs, looking conflicted. She rubs her amulet.

KING GORDON

(slightly suspicious)

And let me add... do not trick me.

Nancy had opened her mouth and her father's statement causes her to pause a bit. She smiles, removes her hand from her amulet, and then she begins to argue her case to him.

INT. PALACE, GUEST QUARTERS, KAGAN'S CHAMBER - MORNING

Esmeralda makes her way towards Kagan's chambers. Kagan opens the door and bolts it shut behind her.

ESMERALDA

This better be important.

KAGAN

It is. The princess will turn down my proposal. This plan has failed.

ESMERALDA

Just because she has been avoiding you all week does not mean that. I can pull a few strings.

KAGAN

Too late. I followed her out of the city to see where she hurries off to every day. It seems she has a lover hidden in the woods. An alien from another planet.
(Esmeralda bursts into laughter. Kagan is confused)
Why is this funny to you?

ESMERALDA

An outsider, you say? Like father like daughter. Years ago, the king, back then still a prince, fell in love

with a woman from another world. He almost gave up everything for her. Perhaps we can use this to our advantage. I have a plan, but I need you to extend your time of stay here.

KAGAN

Done.

ESMERALDA

(smirking)

It's going to be a busy week. I'll keep you posted.

Esmeralda exits Kagan's quarters, leaving him alone with his thoughts.

EXT. ELVESTOPIA, TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

Ben holds a dagger before Tiana. It is glowing.

TIANA

(smiles knowingly)

The gang is here.

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY, CLOUD PILLAR - DAY

Ben and Tiana quickly leave Elvestopia and find about a hundred bloodrubis waiting outside the cloud pillar. Tiana rushes to greet the captains, while Ben allows them a moment to catch up before approaching. As they see Ben, every bloodrubi stands at attention in military-like formation. Ben shows them the glowing dagger.

BEN

I received your gift. May this remove any feeling of debt that we may feel we owe each other. So, thank you.

TIANA

(in Xeronian, to all)

He has accepted the dagger you sent as a gift.

The captains speak to Tiana, requesting her to translate their words.

TIANA (translating)

They have come, a hundred strong, to offer their oath of loyalty to you. They do not offer this lightly.

The bloodrubi bow before Ben and unsheathe their swords, signifying their submission. Even Tiana joins them, kneeling and offering her sword to him. Ben trusts Tiana and her judgment. Seeing her kneeling before him with sincerity, he decides not to break her heart. Ben makes his decision.

EXT. PALACE SQUARE - DAY

Nancy had been walking with Kagan and now they part. Wonderbee descends from the sky and lands before her.

WONDERBEE

(re-Kagan)

That scent... Esmeralda has it too - Werewolf.

NANCY

Really? Well, since the marriage is off, I won't push.

WONDERBEE

Wait, you are not marrying the prince?

NANCY

I had a talk with father and he agreed that I am too young for marriage.

WONDERBEE

What did you say to make him think that?

NANCY

(mounting Wonderbee)

I asked him where babies came from?

WONDERBEE

(laughter)

You did not.

She takes flight.

INT. PRIVATE DINING CHAMBERS - DAY

Esmeralda stands before the set table in the dining chambers. She dismisses the maids. She opens a soup dish and sprinkles some powder from a small plastic packet. She hides the rest in her pouch. The king enters.

ESMERALDA

Lunch is served.

The king chuckles.

KING GORDON

What will I do without you?

Esmeralda joins him at the table, serving him the food and the soup.

KING GORDON (CONT'D)

I was thinking about our princess. Quite something, isn't she?

ESMERALDA

What did she do now?

KING GORDON

I am not quite ready to hand her over to any suitor.

ESMERALDA

Even if that suitor is prince to a powerful kingdom?

KING GORDON

Ha! He can try again in five years.

ESMERALDA

Five years?

KING GORDON

I think we should teach her how a kingdom is run. Do not hold out on her. Teach her your cunning secrets and how to blackmail politicians so they will always remain in her thumb.

ESMERALDA

(laughs)

Fine, just eat up before the soup gets cold.

He eats.

CUT

EXT. PALACE

TIME MONTAGE: SUN SETS AND RISES OVER THE PALACE

CUT

INT. KING'S BED CHAMBER - MORNING

Nancy stands at the foot of the bed, concerned, as her father lies underneath the covers. A **PHYSICIAN (50'S)** is beside him, checking his body temperature.

NANCY

You got the flu?

KING GORDON

(grumbling)

And you had to get me a physician?

NANCY

He's going to make sure you get better soon.

KING GORDON

I'll be fine, don't worry.

Nancy moves closer to her father, showing her love and concern.

NANCY

It's my job to worry.

The king weakly coughs, and Esmeralda enters the room.

ESMERALDA

Oh Gordon, why now of all times?

KING GORDON

(smiling)

Don't you just love these ladies?

The physician smiles and rises from his seat.

ESMERALDA

Do you have anything at all to kill the bug?

PHYSICIAN

This should kill the fever.

He hands Esmeralda a small bottle of PILLS.

PHYSICIAN (CONT'D)

And the cough. But in the meantime, I advise he stays in bed.

The room is filled with concern, but also a glimmer of hope. The family rallies together to take care of the king.

DREAM START:

INT/EXT. BEN'S SUBCONSCIOUS, ENDLESS WATER FLOOR - ??

Su finds herself standing on top of water but two hands of a WOMAN grab her neck and begin choking her. She can't see the woman's face because it is hidden in a fog of darkness but she is very strong. She pushes Su into the water and sends her sinking like a rock.

INT. ANNA'S DOMAIN, BEAUTIFUL ROOM - DAY

Ben finds himself sitting in a beautiful room filled with books. The sunlight filters through translucent curtains, illuminating the room. **ANNA (42)** hums a song as she sits at a desk, writing a letter. She keeps her face turned away from Ben, unaware of his presence. Ben looks around the room, notices a trophy display in front of him and catches his reflection in the glass.

BEN

This is a dream.

Anna stops humming and turns to face him. Startled, she gets up and reaches for a BASEBALL BAT in the corner.

ANNA

How did you get in here?

BEN

I mean you no harm.
(noticing no visible door)
Where am I?

Anna takes a good look at him and her eyes widen.

ANNA

Ben?

Ben is surprised since he has never met her before.

BEN

Who are you?

Anna laughs and sets the bat down, approaching Ben with an outstretched hand.

ANNA

You can call me Anna. I am Nancy's mother.

Ben shakes her hand, even more surprised, and then she hugs him. Just like Nancy.

**CUT
DREAM END**

INT. PALACE, KING'S BED CHAMBER - DAY

Esmeralda is by the king's bedside with documents. He has a seal and she helps him stamp some documents.

KING GORDON

Good luck holding the fort, Regent.

REGENT ESMERALDA

I'll inform the Council at once. Meanwhile, cousin...
(kisses his forehead)
...rest and don't worry about a thing.

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY, CLOUD PILLAR - DAY

Tiana emerges from Elvestopia to come stand with Ben who is looking out in the distance.

TIANA

She didn't come again today?

BEN

This is the third day, Ti. Something must be wrong.

TIANA

Try not to worry too much. If it's something you could help with then she would send the dragon.

Ben is frustrated. Tiana continues to stand with him.

INT. KING'S CHAMBER - DAY

The physician and royal mages stand around the king's bed. His condition has continued to deteriorate.

INT. KING'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Aunt Josephine and Nancy, filled with worry, are by King Gordon's bedside. Nancy kneels beside her father, her eyes filled with tears.

NANCY

Stop speaking as if you're leaving us, father. You will be fine, I promise.

KING GORDON

(weakly)

You need to rely on your aunt now. Don't make trouble for her too much. Have confidence. Find love. All else is meaningless without it.

NANCY

(hesitant)

Father... there is someone I have come to love. A young man from another world, just like aunt and mom.

King Gordon's eyes light up with curiosity. He looks at Josephine, who nods her head.

KING GORDON

(delightedly)

Oh... tell me more. What is his name? What do you love about him?

NANCY

His name is Ben. He is so brave. He says he wants to be my knight. He has fought for me and protected me with his life on more than one occasion.

KING GORDON

I must reward this brave young man.

NANCY

That's what I said. Unfortunately, the city's laws against aliens prevent him from coming here.

KING GORDON

I'll offer him a royal pardon for his actions.

Nancy's face lights up at her father's words, her excitement palpable.

NANCY

(teasingly)

Do you think you and Ben can get along? I can't have you fighting for my attention.

They share a moment of laughter, a brief respite from the somber atmosphere.

(LATER THAT NIGHT)

Nancy continues to pour her heart out to her father, their conversation carrying on late into the night. King Gordon, rejuvenated by their heartfelt exchange, hasn't spoken so freely since falling ill. Aunt Josephine stays by his side, her unwavering presence providing comfort.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(whispering)

Nancy, it's time for you to rest. Your father needs his sleep.

Reluctantly, Nancy bids her father farewell, hopeful that their conversation signifies his recovery. She leaves the room, her heart filled with a sense of contentment.

INT. PALACE, PASSAGES - MORNING

Nancy rises early and gets out of her room. She moves down the passage and heads towards her father's quarters.

INT. PALACE, KING'S BED CHAMBER - MORNING (CONT'D)

She finds a line of advisors standing beside the bed with grave faces. Esmeralda and Aunt Josephine are in the room too. A white sheet covers the king from the head to the feet.

Nancy moves to the bed and touches her father's cold hand. Then tears flow down her cheeks as she begins to cry. Her aunt consoles her.

EXT. ONIS CITY, STREETS - DAY

News outlets reveal this news to the public, 3D billboards throughout the cities. Their king was no more. Then the whole kingdom goes into mourning. Shops close and activities cease. People of all races and beast kind flock to gather before the palace.

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY, CLOUD PILLAR - MORNING

Wonderbee flies down to meet Ben and Tiana before the cloud pillar. She is coming from the city alone. She is here to deliver the tragic news and explain why Nancy hadn't been coming to see him. Tiana covers her mouth in shock and Ben holds his head, dejected. He has a few consoling words for Nancy that Wonderbee flies back with.

EXT. ELVESTOPIA - DAY

(TEXT: ONE WEEK LATER)

Wonderbee sets her feet on the ground and puts Nancy and Spot down. Ben comes to meet her. She hugs him and holds onto him close. Ben embraces her tight, wishing to take all her pain away.

EXT. ELVESTOPIA, RIVER - CONTINUOUS

They stop by a river, and Ben gestures for Nancy to sit on a rock in the shade. He plucks a wildflower and gives it to her. She smiles and takes a whiff.

BEN

(looking at her amulet and touching it)
Is a part of your mother really in here?

NANCY

(surprised)
How did you know that?

BEN

I met her in a dream space... Anna.

NANCY

Yes, that is my mother's name.

BEN

She wanted me to warn you. Someone close to your father betrayed him. She told me he was going to die days before it happened.

NANCY

What? Are you sure?

BEN

I'm afraid so. It's not something someone who just lost a father should hear but somebody murdered the king.

NANCY

(teary-eyed and trying to hide it from Ben)
Who did this? Do you know?

BEN

It was some woman. She switched the pills with poison.

Ben stops as he sees Nancy's face, her fist clenched tightly.

BEN (CONT'D)

This woman can shift her form and become a wolf.

NANCY

Ben, what have I done? This is all my fault. Wonderbee warned me about her.

BEN

Who is this woman?

NANCY

Esmeralda, my cousin.

Ben recalls a conversation they had during his first week at the old mansion.

BEN

Find the proof. It shouldn't be too hard with your magic. Move quickly and get to the bottom of this.

INT. PALACE, SECRET BOOTH, THRONE ROOM - DAY

Nancy follows a secret passage to a small booth high above the king's throne room. She looks down and sees Esmeralda sitting on the throne, scepter in hand, talking to a group of army generals. She has since become Regent and is basically a king these days. Nancy leaves the booth.

INT. REGENT ESMERALDA'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Nancy has a small master key which she uses to open the door. The room is unbelievably neat. Nancy hurries to the drawers of the dressing table and searches through them. She finds a pouch. Inside are pills. She takes one and places it in her own pouch. She puts the pouch back the way it was and looks farther into the drawer. She sees a bottle of more pills. She takes a sample of those pills as well.

INT. PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Nancy hurries down to the physician's offices. The Physician is packing.

NANCY

(barging in)

You are quitting?

The physician sees her and sighs. He crashes into his seat, looking worse for wear.

NANCY

You do know they will be asking for your head, right?

(he knew, and he was not going to put up a defense)
I have a better plan. How'd you like to be my personal physician?

PHYSICIAN

You'd hire me?

NANCY

Yes, come under my protection. But you'd have to answer to me and no one else. I have the first task for you.

Nancy digs in her pouch.

NANCY

I have these two different pills. Analyze, break them apart, or whatever but just get their chemical composition and tell me what they do.

The physician takes the pills from her.

EXT. ONIS CITY, PALACE - MORNING

The palace comes alive as the rising sun brings it a bust of activity. Distant barons have come to meet the Regent to hear if there is going to be any change of policy or if the council is going to lower taxes. They stand around in front of the palace, hands folded behind and their pot bellies sticking out.

INT. PALACE, ESMERALDA'S CHAMBER - MORNING

Esmeralda has called Kagan to her chamber to show him surveillance footage of her room. Then they are watching three dimensional images of the princess in Esmeralda's room checking her drawers. Then Nancy takes the pill samples and that is when Esmeralda shuts it down.

KAGAN

(gravely)

She'll know what you did, soon.

REGENT ESMERALDA

We need to distract her. I want you to lead a team to go apprehend her alien friend.

KAGAN

I'll send word to my sorceress to cast him out of the barrier. We will track him from there.

Kagan then goes out.

EXT. PALACE, COURTS - DAY

Esmeralda chooses from the erect brown furred apes that line up before her and gives them their mission.

EXT. PALACE, GARDENS - DAY (CONT'D)

Then the team looks for the princess' dragon friend. They find her eating the green hedge in the gardens. They then use a small gun to fire a tiny dart into the back of her neck. The dart is a tracker. Wonderbee just scratches and ignores it as an itch. The apes look on their scroll computer screen and sees that the tracker is now in place and is already glowing.

INT. PALACE, PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Nancy heads to the physician's office. The physician then greets her as he sees her come in. He is just coming from mixing chemicals when she approaches him.

NANCY

You've analyzed the samples?

PHYSICIAN

Yes. One is medicine for colds. Another is a poison.

NANCY

(fearful)

Poison...?

(the physician nods)

Thank you. Let's keep this between ourselves for now, shall we?

PHYSICIAN

Of course.

EXT. GROVE - DAY

The apes in armor are now in the woods and they sit with their parked flying bikes when Nancy flies above them on Wonderbee's back on her way to Elvestopia. They look at their tracker... they are not going to lose her. She is going to lead them right to Ben.

INT. ELVESTOPIA, BEN'S HUT - MORNING

Ben wakes up and sits up straight.

BEN
(calls)

Ti!

TIANA (V.O)

I am coming in.

Tiana opens the door and comes inside Ben's hut. She sits across from him since his bed was actually a mat on the floor.

BEN
Su has been lying to us ever since we stepped inside this barrier. She is actually hiding an army from the neighboring kingdom.

TIANA
(clicks her tongue)
The silver dragon was right all along.

BEN
Gather your things. We cannot stay here anymore.

EXT. ELVESTOPIA, BEN'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Ben and Tiana exit the hut to find Su, accompanied by her elf warriors and the Rotonian detachment of soldiers.

BEN
What's going on, Su?

SU
I received orders to evict you from Elvestopia, but it seems you were already on your way out.

BEN

Orders from who?

SU

You... you regained your memories, didn't you?

BEN

Now that everything's out in the open, will you rewrite my memories again?

SU

(shaking her head)

I doubt that will work on you a second time.

BEN

Will you detain us? I'm leaving, Su.

SU

(approaching Ben)

We're friends, aren't we?

BEN

I thought we were, but you were keeping important things from me.

SU

I made a deal with your inner self. Stay inside my barrier. No harm will come upon you. I want to protect you, so please stay.

(she holds his hand)

I haven't had someone to call a friend in a really long time.

Ben looks back at Tiana, seeking her opinion.

TIANA

I'm with you, whatever you decide.

BEN

(to Su)

If we're truly friends, let me walk out of here.

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY, CLOUD PILLAR - DAY

Ben and Tiana stand at the cloud pillar, outside Elvestopia. They wear sour expressions on their faces. Nancy and Wonderbee have just arrived.

NANCY

What happened? Your faces look troubled.

BEN

Elvestopia was a lie, a ruse to disguise something sinister.

Before Ben can reveal more, a mist rises around the barrier and engulfs the cloud pillar. The mist obscures everything from view momentarily before slowly dissipating. When the mist completely clears, the barrier, along with the cloud pillar, has vanished. Elvestopia is gone.

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Just then, large shadows pass over Ben and the others, causing them to look up. Flying bikes carrying apes armed with bolt spears hover above them. Tiana looks towards the woods and notices a team advancing on foot. The bikes begin to circle above them like hungry vultures.

BEN

Who are they?

Nancy holds her amulet tightly.

NANCY

The king's private guard. How did they find me?

TIANA

(to Nancy)

Are they here for Ben?

NANCY

(uncertain)

We will hear them out.

TIANA

(firm, almost shouting)

They are not dressed for talks.

Nancy looks at Wonderbee.

NANCY

Get Ben out of here!

Wonderbee lowers her head, allowing Ben to grab onto one of her horns. She throws him onto her back and takes flight. Ben knows that capture would mean certain execution, being an illegal alien. The apes on flying bikes pursue after them, resembling a swarm of bees. Nancy turns to Tiana.

NANCY

Do not fight them, Tiana. I will handle this.

The team advancing on foot surrounds Nancy and Tiana.

NANCY

Captain, what is the meaning of this?

CAPTAIN

(stern)

We have orders to bring you back to the city.

NANCY

Who issued such orders?

Before the captain can answer, trouble arises.

INSERT IMAGE: One ape presses a button on a device in his hand.

INSET IMAGE: The tracker in Wonderbee's neck suddenly electrocutes both her and Ben, causing them to crash to the ground.

Nancy cries out for Ben, fearing the worst. She wants to run to him, but an ape restrains her. Tiana, fueled by anger, swings her staff and knocks down two apes beside her. She swiftly frees Nancy from the ape's grip.

TIANA

Go check on him.

(PAN TO)

Nancy hurries to Ben's side, discovering that Wonderbee has protected him in the fall and hidden him in her embrace.

NANCY (via telepathy)

(relieved, to Tiana)

He's okay. Ben is okay.

(**BACK TO**)

Tiana looks away from the fight in relief upon receiving this news. However, an ape touches the back of her neck with a stun spear, rendering her unconscious.

(**PAN TO**)

As the apes descend from the bikes, they separate Ben from Nancy. He remains unconscious, and they intend to keep it that way.

APE ON FLYING BIKE

Should we take the bloodrubi?

KAGAN

That's a negative. We got what we came for.

Nancy continues to struggle with the apes as KAGAN approaches from the woods.

NANCY

Kagan? Tell these men to stand down or I'll have them flogged.

KAGAN

Your word is overruled. They are operating under the Regent's orders.

NANCY

Esmeralda sent you?

KAGAN

I doubt she'll be amused to find you harboring an alien.

The apes carry the cuffed and unconscious Ben as they prepare to leave.

NANCY

What do you plan to do to him?

KAGAN

Relax, he'll be fine. We can't risk anything happening to him.

Kagan hints at a hidden agenda, and Nancy catches on.

KAGAN

Okay, let's move out.

They head back to the city, leaving the unconscious Tiana behind.

INT. ONIS CITY, DUNGEON - DAY

The guards lead Ben past numerous cells where prisoners clasp desperately onto iron bars. Their roaring echoes in this pit and dizzy Ben. The guards shove him into one of the cells and he crashes onto his belly, and then they lock him in.

INT. CELL - CONTINUOUS

A couple of prisoners share the cell with him.

JIN-JIN

(sarcastically)

Come to share the ax?

JIN-JIN (40'S), a tall and muscular half-man, half-octopus being, chuckles.

BEN

I am just passing through.

Laughter.

JIN-JIN

I have heard that before one times too many.

PANTHERIO (40'S), a cream white panther who stands erect like a man, sits in the corner.

PANTHERIO

(smiling to Ben)
Lifted my spirits for a bit there. Come sit down,
friend.

Ben hesitates but eventually goes over and joins him.

BEN

Name's Ben.

PANTHERIO

(extending his hand)

Pantherio.

JIN-JIN

(interjecting)

And I'm Jin-jin. Where do you come from?

BEN

I'm from Planet Earth.

JIN-JIN

I'm from Planet Saz, a water planet. No dry land
there.

Another prisoner with dry cracked skin speaks up.

CRACKED-SKIN PRISONER

I'm from a planet between two stars. It never gets
dark.

A blue-skinned prisoner with smooth skin joins in.

BLUE-SKINNED PRISONER

And I come from a planet where it rains acid.

BEN

All of us in here are aliens?

PANTHERIO

(bitterly)

The prejudices on this planet are off the charts.

BEN

(determined)

Instead of waiting for our fates, shouldn't we be planning a jailbreak or something?

PANTHERIO

(resigned)

Already tried that. It's hopeless.

BEN

Really, what happened?

Pantherio looks at Jin-jin.

JIN-JIN

Fine, fine. I'll do the honors.

Jin-jin comes and sits before Ben so he can tell him the story.

EXT. GROVE, MANSION MATTHIAS - DAY

Tiana parks her bike and gazes at the enormous mansion. She approaches the entrance. Suddenly, she hears a snapping sound coming from the nearby woods. A pack of fierce dogs surround her, growling menacingly. Undeterred, she removes her hood, revealing her determined face. Silence.

MATTHIAS

Tiana, what a surprise. What brings you here?

TIANA

(turning to Matthias)

We have a situation on our hands.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Tiana swiftly takes to the air again, flying in the direction of the Bloodrubi City. However, she deviates from her path and veers towards an emerging forest.

EXT. BLOODRUBI SETTLEMENT - CONTINUOUS

She approaches a new and rising settlement where her fellow BLOODRUBI COMRADES eagerly await her arrival, hoping for news of their lord.

EXT. PALACE - DAY

Esmeralda comes out of the palace with a stack of FLIERS that she hands to THREE YOUNG MEN.

REGENT ESMERALDA

I want these swarming all over the city.

YOUNG MEN

Yes madam.

They bow and leave hurriedly on gliding levitating skate-boards.

INT. PALACE, NANCY'S CHAMBER - DAY

Meanwhile, Nancy is sitting in her room before the mirror and putting pins in her hair. She has decided to look the part of a princess. Wonderbee comes to perch on her balcony and Nancy comes to meet her.

NANCY

You okay, big girl?

Nancy rubs Wonderbee's head softly.

WONDERBEE

It was my fault. I led them right to Ben.

NANCY

No. There was no way you could have known.

WONDERBEE

So, they are getting him to fight?

NANCY

What?

WONDERBEE

This.

Wonderbee gives Nancy a flier and she reads through it.

NANCY

How could she?

Nancy crumbles the flier.

WONDERBEE

Nancy... I could go and fetch Silverbee.

(leans closer to whisper)

You know we will do anything for you. Just say the word and he will be broken out tonight.

NANCY

Thanks, Wonderbee, but I can't always be relying on you guys every time. Ben said he would stay in Xeronis and be my knight. I can't send him on the run now.

Nancy looks at the flier and rips it up in frustration.

INT. DUNGEON, CELL - NIGHT

The fliers are thrown inside Ben's cell and Ben takes one to read his fate. Jin-jin comes and snatches it from him to read as well. Ben does not say anything. Jin-jin hands the flier to Pantherio.

PANTHERIO

(somber)

Starting tomorrow, we are participating in the blood games.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. ONIS CITY, PRISON TRUCK - DAWN

Ben and his cellmates, Pantherio and Jin-jin included, are transported to the amphitheater in a levitating truck. Their hands and feet are cuffed with chains. Ben is unable to see much of the city during the journey.

EXT. ONIS CITY, AMPHITHEATER - CONTINUOUS

The prisoners are unchained as they arrive at the amphitheater. A massive building that can seat over 30,000 people towers before them. The area is heavily guarded, leaving no chance for escape.

INT. AMPHITHEATER, HALL FOR COMBATANTS - CONTINUOUS

Ben and his cellmates enter a hall filled with soldiers. At the center of the hall is a large table displaying primitive weapons... swords, spears, battle axes, maces, shields, breastplates, and helmets.

The prisoners are encouraged to choose their weapons. Pantherio and Jin-jin quickly make their selections. Ben is drawn to a small SHINY REFLECTIVE SHIELD. As he looks at his reflection, he says,

BEN

(whisper)

I am awake.

His magic activates and his reflection responds,

BEN (REFLECTION)

I am in a dream.

Suddenly, Ben's perspective shifts, and he enters a vision.

VISION START:

INT/EXT. DREAM WALKER DOMAIN - CONTINUOUS

Everything around Ben turns dark, except for the illuminated table of weapons. He sees his dream double, a replica of his physical body, standing over the weapons, making his own choices. It's only two of them in this place. Ben watches as his dream double selects a sword with a golden handle, a reflective shield, and some daggers. He also puts on a tight-fitting breastplate and closes the snaps at the sides. There is a glove with a hidden blade which he takes as well.

VISION END

INT. AMPHITHEATER, HALL FOR COMBATANTS - CONTINUOUS

It took only a second for Ben to see the vision but in dream time that was a full minute. With the ending of the vision, Ben quickly moves to the table and chooses the same weapons his double had decided on. He takes the sword and the daggers, wears the breastplate, and closes the snaps.

Pantherio and Jin-jin are amazed by Ben's efficiency and focus. They pause, unsure of what just happened.

EXT. ONIS CITY GATES - EARLY MORNING

Tiana and a HUNDRED BLOODRUBI WARRIORS, accompanied by Matthias and over 50 DOGS, gather at the city gates. The COMMANDER at the gates is alarmed by the armed group and comes down to hear their demands.

EXT. PALACE - MORNING

Nancy meets her aunt downstairs, who has been waiting for her.

NANCY

You knew I was coming?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

You did say he was your knight.

Nancy and her aunt ride in one of the royal levitating carriages and head towards the amphitheater.

INT. AMPHITHEATER, GAMES ARENA - MORNING

The morning sun casts a golden glow over the grand arena. Ben and his mates stand behind closed bars, eagerly awaiting their turn. They watch the quick one-on-one battles unfold through the gratings. The rules are explained to them as they observe the opponents from the other sector, lined up on the opposite side of the building. People cheer from the seats high above.

INT. AMPHITHEATER, PASSAGE - CONTINUOUS

Ben watches as Pantherio, a skilled fighter, emerge victorious in his match.

CUT

Jin-jin, displaying brute strength, easily overwhelms his opponent.

CUT

Now, it's Ben's turn. Pantherio comes his way to say a word.

PANTHERIO

The guards are saying a mercenary has been hired for your fight. Unlike the rest of us, you might meet a tougher opponent. I don't know what you did to piss off the top brass but... good luck.

Ben grips his sword and shield, making his way through the passageway toward the slowly opening gates.

INT. AMPHITHEATER, GAMES ARENA - CONTINUOUS

Ben steps onto the sandy arena, the cheers from the crowd reminiscent of a football stadium.

Nancy sits at the edge of her seat on the ROYAL PLATFORM, her aunt by her side. The Regent sits with Kagan and is obviously enjoying herself.

Ben moves towards the royal platform, catching Nancy's attention. Nancy rises and comes to the edge. Ben raises his sword in salutation, silently conveying his confidence. Nancy raises her hand and nods in support.

INSERT IMAGE: Onlookers take note of their interaction, wondering what it could mean.

Ben turns to face his opponent, a blue-skinned warrior known as THE SILENT ASSASSIN. He carries two daggers and watches Ben like prey. Ben raises his shield, ready to face the silent assassin's unknown magic. Suddenly, the assassin disappears before Ben's eyes. Ben takes a step back, unable to detect the invisible foe. He turns this way and that, only to be punched in the face. He staggers and a kick throws him onto his back. Ben gets up and swings blindly.

(BEN'S POV)

Ben's feet are swept off the ground and the world overturns for him as he crashes into the dirt.

INSERT IMAGE: The crowd is amused at the one-sided nature of the battle.

INSERT IMAGE: Nancy's heart leaps with fear for Ben.

Ben gets up. He decides to sheathe his sword and focus on his reflective shield. He looks at his reflection.

BEN

I am awake.

REFLECTION

I am in a dream.

DREAM START:

INT/EXT. DREAM WALKER DOMAIN - ??

Ben finds himself standing in darkness. He looks around and sees there is a source of light moving around him in a circle. It is a person with invisible features but a light draws a silhouette of his form so that when he moves Ben can see his outline. The outlined figure moves toward him and raises his leg to kick Ben in the back.

DREAM END

INT. ARENA - CONTINUOUS

Reality crashes back as Ben receives an actual kick in the back from the invisible assassin. He staggers forward.

BEN

I see him.

Ben stands tall, seeking his reflection in the shield once more.

INSERT IMAGE: The crowd wonders what he's doing, questioning his sanity. They want him to fight back, even feebly.

DREAM START:

INT/EXT. DREAM WALKER DOMAIN - ??

Again in his dream sphere, Ben clearly sees the invisible figure, his outline drawn by a faint light. He is rushing toward Ben and he raises his leg to deliver a frontal kick but then,

DREAM END

INT. ARENA - CONTINUOUS

Ben swiftly counters the attack, using his shield to swat the leg raised against him. The impact reverberates through the air, striking invisible bone and flesh. Undeterred, Ben swings around, wielding his shield like a baseball bat. He delivers a powerful blow to the assassin's head, producing a resounding

batting sound. Visible blood splatters on Ben's shield and the ground. After that, he loses sight of the assassin again. He unsheathes his sword, ready for whatever comes next. The crowd watches in awe, impressed by Ben's skills.

DREAM START:

INT/EXT. DREAM WALKER DOMAIN - ??

Ben is standing in darkness again and he can see the silhouette of the assassin. He is standing afar off, cautious and nursing his injuries. He will not toy with Ben anymore.

He gets on the move again and his aim is to approach Ben from behind. Ben does not follow his movements aiming for a feint. The assassin charges, leaps high into the air, and he targets his blade for Ben's neck.

DREAM END

INT. ARENA - CONTINUOUS

Ben spins out of the way at the last minute before the blade can touch him and the crowd sees something heavy land before Ben, heavy but invisible as they can only see the dust and depression of the impact. Ben had raised his sword with both hands and he jabs downward toward an unseen target. His sword is stained red first, and then as more blood start to become visible, the assassin becomes visible as well as his magic loses its power. The crowd now sees that Ben had impaled him right through his chest from the back in a perfectly timed counter-attack. Ben kicks the dying assassin back as he pulls out his sword from his body. Silence.

INSERT IMAGE: The crowd stands in stunned silence after witnessing Ben's defeat of the silent assassin.

Ben calmly sheathes his sword and then he walks toward the royal platform, his eyes fixed on Nancy.

Nancy's face lights up with joy, but she maintains her composure for what she has planned. Rising from her seat, she reaches for a single rose amidst a BOUQUET OF FLOWERS adorning the platform. With a graceful motion, she tosses it down into the arena. The rose lands at Ben's feet. He picks it up delicately, bringing it to his nose to breathe in its fragrance.

NANCY

(to the crowd, excitedly)
Behold, my knight. Ben from Earth!

(PAN TO)

BEN

(surprised and delighted)
Oh...?

INSERT IMAGE: The crowd remains bewildered, struggling to comprehend Nancy's words.

Sensing the confusion, Nancy repeats herself, this time louder and more assertive.

NANCY (CONT'D)

(pointing at Ben)
My knight! Ben from Earth!

Understanding dawns on the crowd. Nancy's aunt rises from her seat, applauding with enthusiasm. The crowd follows suit, erupting into cheers for Ben.

(PAN TO)

Ben's face lights up. He bows graciously, acknowledging the adoration from the crowd. He waves his hand and begins to make his way back to the gates, which open to allow him to return to the other prisoners.

The morning games conclude with this unexpected turn of events. The crowd disperses, eagerly anticipating the afternoon games, which will feature a single team battle.

(PAN TO)

Prince Kagan is intrigued by what he has just seen of the fight.

EXT. PALACE GARDENS - MORNING

Nancy and her aunt return to the palace, finding the ORDER OF KNIGHTS waiting for them in the gardens. Josephine, knowing the knights well, steps aside to allow Nancy to handle the situation. She heads inside. The uniform of the knights is ox-blood in color. Nancy sits at a table prepared for her, ready to have tea.

NANCY

Gina, what can I do for you?

GINA (17-YEAR-OLD BRUNETTE), chosen by the knights to speak on their behalf due to her closeness with Nancy, kneels along with the rest of the knights.

GINA

Every day, we train and dedicate ourselves to be the best knights we can be. We hoped that you'd choose your companions from among us. But you chose a knight from another world. Why, Your Grace? Are we not worthy of you? Then it is better to cut our throats right now.

Nancy takes a sip of her tea and gazes at the kneeling knights.

NANCY

You may rise.

GINA

Not until you give us an answer, Your Grace.

NANCY

You want to be my knights? No need to fret. In time, you will get your wish. But as you are now, you are not what I need.

GINA

Princess...?

NANCY

Ben is important to me. Even after publicly declaring him as my knight, why does the Regent keep him in prison? The time for words has long passed. If you will stand with me, now is the time to make that choice. Ben has already chosen and because of that, he will take command over you. Are you still willing?

GINA

Say no more, Your Grace. We hear you loud and clear.

Gina rises and addresses her fellow knights.

GINA (CONT'D)

You heard her, ladies and gentlemen. Make your choice now. Stand with the Regent or stand with the Princess. Those who are for the Princess, come with me.

Gina exits the gardens, followed by two-thirds of the knights.

EXT. PALACE, KNIGHTS' WING - CONTINUOUS

Gina leads the knights to their quarters to get their gear. They arm themselves and take their levitating truck and head for the amphitheater.

INT. AMPHITHEATER, HALL FOR COMBATANTS - DAY

As Ben and his allies discuss strategy, a group of armed knights, dressed in oxblood suits, enters the hall. The soldiers are unable to prevent their entrance, and they approach Ben. Gina, the leader of the knights, addresses the warden responsible for the prisoners.

GINA

(pointing at Ben)

He is coming with us.

WARDEN

(confused)

But he's supposed to participate in the team battles this noon.

GINA

Cancel them. He has been declared a knight and far outranks you now. Clear the room!

Everyone is forcefully pushed out towards other halls, leaving Ben alone in the center of the room. The knights form a big circle around him.

BEN

What's going on?

GINA

(approaching Ben)

I am Gina. You'll know the rest of the team later. The princess has just placed all of her knights under you.

BEN

(astonished)

She has done what now?

GINA

(facepalming)

Face it, you are our captain now. We need to get you up to speed.

KNIGHT #1

(interjecting, concerned)

The Regent will send her soldiers soon.

GINA

You're right.

(turns to Ben)

How do you want us to handle it?

Ben is taken aback by the weight of his role. He is unable to respond quickly.

GINA

(noticing his hesitation)

Rest assured, we won't surrender without a fight. The princess's first order is that much important for our department. We live for moments like this.

The other knights stamp their feet in agreement. Ben notices Pantherio and Jin-jin looking through the grating of another hall.

BEN

(to Gina)

How do you handle recruitments?

GINA

We accept applications, but they are rare. This job usually passes down through noble families. Why?

Ben moves towards the grating to address the illegal aliens.

BEN

(to the prisoners)

How would you all like to join me as guests at the knights' headquarters? The princess needs protection, and she's generous with rewards.

Shouts of affirmation rise from the hall of illegal aliens.

BEN

(to Gina)

These are your applications.

(determined)

If the Regent is coming after us, we'll give her a big enough reason to. We're taking everyone with us.

EXT. AMPHITHEATER - CONTINUOUS

The afternoon games are canceled due to the lack of participants. The knights commandeer the prison vehicles and take the alien convicts who wish to join them back to their base.

INT/EXT. PALACE BALCONY - DAY

Nancy stands on her balcony, overlooking the courtyard below. She watches as a group of knights arrive, stepping out of their vehicles and leading recruited prisoners towards their wing. Nancy's face lights up with satisfaction.

WONDERBEE

(joining Nancy, looking out)

Aren't you going to greet them?

NANCY

Not yet.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(coming to stand with Nancy, concerned)

I am told there is a group of bloodrubi and dogs at the city gates demanding for the release of their lord, a Ben from Earth.

NANCY

That can only be Tiana and Matthias.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(surprised)
Matthias? 'The' Matthias?

NANCY
(nods, excited)
Yes, 'the' Matthias.

Aunt Josephine chuckles, reminiscing about some past tale.

NANCY
(to Wonderbee)
Wonderbee, I need to inform Tiana about what's
happening here.

WONDERBEE
On it.

Wonderbee, ever efficient, nods and swiftly departs.

CUT

EXT. ONIS CITY GATES - DAY

Wonderbee arrives at the bustling city gates. A group is indeed gathered and she spots Tiana and Matthias who look up, glad to see the purple dragon.

INT. PALACE, THRONE ROOM - DAY

Esmeralda storms into the throne room, furious. Army captains are waiting for her.

REGENT ESMERALDA
Where are my soldiers? I will not be mocked!

The captains scamper out.

EXT. PALACE, KNIGHTS' WING - CONTINUOUS

Soldiers are harassing the knights. They want Ben handed over into their custody. The knights form a shield wall to keep the soldiers out as the tension escalates. Suddenly, the bloodrubs and dogs from the city gates arrive, guided by Wonderbee flying above them. Wonderbee releases a loud roar that separates the knights and soldiers by taking their

attention off of each other. A path is forced open for the bloodrubs and the dogs to pass as they have come as reinforcements. Wonderbee flies back to report to her princess.

EXT. PALACE, KNIGHTS' BASE - GARDEN - DAY

Ben, now dressed in a captain's oxblood suit with gold trimmings, steps out to greet the bloodrubs. They cheer for him, impressed by his appearance. Ben hugs Tiana and Matthias and he looks at their teams.

INT. PALACE, AUNT JOSEPHINE'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

There is a knock on the door. Aunt Josephine opens the door and lets Nancy in. She then shuts the door behind them.

NANCY

I'm glad I found you still awake. I was hoping we could talk.

Aunt Josephine looks at the PAPERS in Nancy's hands, concerned.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

I don't like what the papers in your hands are telling me. Explain.

Nancy has two rolls of paper, sealed. She holds them out before her aunt who has the ability to read or hear documents and books without needing to open them. Aunt Josephine points at one,

AUNT JOSEPHINE

This one is talking about an analysis of a pill and then of a poison.

Nancy nods. Aunt Josephine points at the other paper.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(frowning)

This one is a the tox report from your father's blood?

NANCY

Yes. The physician found this poison had been in my father's system.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Someone committed high treason? Who would dare?

NANCY

Esmeralda.

Shock registers on Aunt Josephine's face.

CUT

EXT. KNIGHTS' WING - NIGHT

The soldiers and knights have stopped their clashes and they are just camping out for the night. They have hit a deadlock.

INT. KNIGHTS' WING, MEETING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ben, Gina, Tiana, and Matthias are holding a strategy meeting. They huddle around a small round table with a MAP in the middle.

BEN

What do we do about that hidden army? They will surely invade anytime.

Gina is puzzled, Tiana and Matthias exchange concerned glances.

TIANA

I should have informed the princess, but things were chaotic after your capture.

BEN

She won't be able to do anything as things stand. The Regent is the real problem here.

GINA

Surely, if the Regent learns about a foreign army on our soil, she can act to protect the city.

BEN

She already knows. The Rotonian prince is her partner. They meet daily to discuss strategies. For now, we can rest a bit since the prince has his sights set on me.

TIANA

What does he want with you?

BEN

I kept him from his original goal, the princess.

MATTHIAS

(scoffs)

He is jealous?

GINA

(skeptical)

How do you know all this? Do you have any proof? Or is this conjecture?

TIANA

(interrupting Ben who is about to speak)

Let me.

(to Gina)

Ben is a dream-walker. He is skilled at gathering information and secrets using the dream realm.

GINA

I thought dream-walkers were just a myth.

TIANA

(grinning)

Well, meet the man and the myth. His magic is still growing; who knows what he'll be able to do in a year?

Ben chuckles, feeling slightly embarrassed.

BEN

A year? How will I survive a week when a great wolf has me in a corner?

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT. KNIGHTS' WING - SUNRISE

The knights, along with the bloodrubs and the dogs, better organized, stand in lines, ready to repel a fresh dispatch of soldiers. The two sides glare at each other, waiting for orders. Prince Kagan comes waltzing past the soldiers.

CUT

EXT. KNIGHTS' WING, GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Ben is watching the sunrise when Kagan comes to join him. Tiana, Matthias and Gina are standing a distance to give the privacy.

BEN

Good morning, prince. I could bow and be more hospitable but...

KAGAN

Perfect. A man like you can surely thrive in my court.

BEN

(annoyed)

I am pressed for time.

KAGAN

Yes, yes. You need this ruckus solved so you can focus on my army. Perhaps you are wondering why I haven't invaded yet? This moment is opportune.

BEN

You'd like to spare your forces unnecessary losses.

KAGAN

Close. I have come to propose a solution because this is ultimately between us, a prince to a prince.

BEN

(raising a hand)

I am not a prince.

KAGAN

Yet you handle yourself like one.

BEN

Enough. What is this solution?

KAGAN

A duel. Just you and me.

BEN

What's in it for you?

KAGAN

If I win, the princess gives up her right to the throne and my army takes over in a bloodless seizure. If you win, my army withdraws and the Regent hands over the throne to your princess, or is it, to you?

BEN

(BEATS)

I accept. Do we need witnesses and contracts?

Kagan hands Ben the CONTRACT DOCUMENT in his hand.

KAGAN

The Regent's signature and mine, plus the conditions we just discussed. Have your team look it over. Signing it makes it binding.

Ben signals for Gina to come and look the document over. Kagan is already leaving.

KAGAN

See you in the arena, prince from Earth.

INT. PALACE, KING'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Nancy stands before the grand doors that now belong to Esmeralda. She pauses and rubs her amulet, activating her search magic. The amulet reveals glowing shoeprints leading away from the chamber. Curiosity piqued, Nancy follows the shoeprints downstairs, leading her to Kagan's chambers.

INT. KAGAN'S CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Nancy enters Kagan's room, using her master key to gain access. Spotting the shoeprints leading into the closet, Nancy opens it and discovers a SMALL WOODEN BOX. She recognizes it immediately. Nancy places the box on the bed. She presses a button on the box, activating a playback of a previous transmission. Esmeralda's form appears. Nancy expects idle chatter or gossip.

ESMERALDA (RECORDED)

Belsha has been arrested and is no longer the chief.

KAGAN (RECORDED)

What happened?

ESMERALDA (RECORDED)

I don't know. He was useless as an ally. He couldn't even deliver the princess' head to us.

Nancy's blood runs cold as she listens intently. What was this?

KAGAN (RECORDED)

My army is hidden on this land now. Should I attack?

ESMERALDA (RECORDED)

Not yet. Come and take the princess' hand in marriage.

KAGAN (RECORDED)

And if that fails?

ESMERALDA (RECORDED)

We proceed with our plan for the king. He won't live to see his next birthday.

Nancy abruptly stops the recording.

INT. NANCY'S ROOM - DAY

Nancy swiftly carries the contraption to her room and locks it securely inside her safe.

NANCY

(to Spot, who had seen her with the contraption)
Guard it with your life.

SPOT

Consider me on guard duty. I'm going nowhere.

Wonderbee comes onto Nancy's balcony and peeks through.

WONDERBEE

Are you going yet?

NANCY

(confused)

Go where?

WONDERBEE

You don't know?

Wonderbee hands Nancy a flier. She takes a look and her face turns pale. She drops the flier and rushes downstairs.

EXT. PALACE - DAY

Nancy hurries outside and spots a waiting carriage. Her aunt peeks out from the carriage to see Nancy.

INT. AMPHITHEATER, HALL FOR COMBATANTS - DAY

Knights guard the hall. Ben is preparing for his duel. Gina and Tiana are assisting him.

GINA

You were right, the prince did come after you.

TIANA

You've never faced a werewolf in an open area before.

BEN

I'll have to learn as I go.

GINA

A werewolf takes a team of 5 or more trained knights to put down. Will you really be okay? Even Lady Tiana is worried.

INT. ARENA, PASSAGE WAY BEHIND ROYAL PLATFORM - DAY

Nancy and Aunt Josephine are making their way to the royal platform. Aunt Josephine stops Nancy and presents her with a small PEARL TIARA. Nancy smiles and lowers her head as Aunt Josephine places the tiara on her head.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

A crown fit for a princess.

NANCY

Thank you.

They proceed to the platform to raucous cheers.

INT. ARENA - DAY

Ben enters the arena, greeted by a roaring crowd. He looks up at the spectators, filled with excitement. Tiana and the dogs sit in the lowest rows near the high walls of the arena.

Ben locks eyes with Nancy on the platform, exchanging smiles and silent encouragement.

Another GRATING sound echoes through the arena, and Prince Kagan enters, noticeably without his armor. He carries a small shield and a sword. The crowd erupts into cheers, their allegiance unclear. They are here for entertainment. Kagan's demeanor suggests he is not here for a fight. He walks casually, a frozen smile plastered on his face. He heads directly towards Ben, who has also made his way to the center.

KAGAN

You should have never come to Xeronis.

Kagan raises his shield, positioning it at chin level.

BEN

Are you kidding? I love it here.

Ben raises his shield, preparing to defend against Kagan's attack. The crowd falls into complete silence, anticipation thick in the air. Kagan swings his sword, while Ben raises his shield, deflecting the blows. Ben retaliates with his own sword swing, meeting Kagan's shield. The battle of strength ensues, with Kagan relentlessly striking Ben's shield.

Ben, realizing Kagan's superior strength, is pushed back with every hit. Kagan delivers a powerful stomp to Ben's shield, sending him tumbling to the ground. Ben quickly rolls and gets back up, but is knocked down again as their shields clash. Ben rises and drops his heavy shield. He switches his sword to his left hand. Kagan resumes his attack, swinging his sword downward. Ben blocks the strike and Kagan pushes his shield. Ben grabs Kagan's shield, whirls and steals it from him. Ben tosses it aside and he returns his sword to his right hand.

(PAN TO)

Tiana, on the edge of her seat, is filled with unease.

TIANA

(muttering)

I don't believe I listened to him. I should have just broken him out.

(BACK TO)

Kagan attacks again, with Ben blocking and evading his swings. Ben raises his sword to block a downward strike, then swiftly lunges into Kagan's circle, hitting him with his elbow and splitting his lip. Kagan staggers back, but quickly recovers and swings again.

Ben blocks the swing and delivers a powerful kick to Kagan's stomach, causing him to stagger. Ben leaps high and lands a punch on Kagan's temple. Kagan staggers away, but Ben relentlessly pursues him. He dodges Kagan's thrust and counters with a back kick, sending him flying forward. Ben strikes Kagan's temple once more, knocking his blade out of his hand. With a jump kick to Kagan's chest, Ben throws him to the ground.

(PAN TO)

Regent Esmeralda squirms uncomfortably in her seat, witnessing Ben's dominance in the fight.

(BACK TO)

However, Kagan rises without flinching, ready to continue the battle. A tense atmosphere fills the air as the crowd watches in anticipation. Kagan's eyes suddenly turn scarlet red, and he cries out like a beast. His teeth grow and protrude from his mouth like deadly spikes, and a muzzle begins to form on his face. His flesh stretches as black fur covers him.

Ben, horrified, takes a step back as Kagan's clothes tear apart, revealing his expanding muscles and growing claws.

INSERT IMAGE: Nancy, sitting on the edge of her seat, is filled with fear.

INSERT IMAGE: Tiana, not pleased by Kagan's transformation, watches with concern.

(PAN TO)

ESMERALDA

(smirking)

Now, this is going to be fun.

(PAN TO)

Pantherio, hidden behind closed gates, observes the scene.

PANTHERIO

(exasperation)

Oh come on, I thought the fight was fair.

(BACK TO)

Kagan completes his transformation into massive werewolf and Ben runs from him. The crowd boos him. Ben reaches for his shield, which had been lying on the ground and then he throws it. The shield flies like a spinning disk and it strikes Kagan hard in the muzzle, causing him to crash onto the sand.

The wolf whimpers in pain but slowly rises, angrier than ever. Ben retrieves a sword from his right hand and reaches for his dagger with his left, preparing to face the charging wolf head-on. He regards his reflection in the blade a bit and then TIME begins to flow at a snail's pace for Ben.

(SOUND: A CLOCK WITH HURRIED TICKS IN THE BACKGROUND)

Ben's mind accelerates, now operating in dream time, aware of microsecond ticking. The wolf charges towards him in SLOW MOTION.

As Kagan charges, Ben surprises him by a sudden leap forward, closing the distance between them. Dodging Kagan's trajectory, Ben's sword swings true, its blade touching the wolf's neck. In DREAM-TIME, Ben feels the connection as his blade cuts through fur, skin, and flesh. It touches bone, severing it with each movement. His victory seems assured.

Suddenly, time begins to flow BACKWARD, unraveling the scene. In a two-second REWIND, Ben's blade is no longer in contact with Kagan's neck and the wound he inflicted is gone. Instead, Kagan lowers his head, opens his mouth, and catches Ben's blade between his teeth in corrective moves.

As time resumes its NORMAL FLOW, the wolf crashes in one direction, while Ben crashes in the other.

Ben rises to find that his sword is now in Kagan's possession. Kagan, in his wolf form, spits out the blade he had caught.

BEN

(whispers to himself)

I swear I cut him!

Even Kagan, stroking his neck, seems to be checking for a wound that was supposed to be there. Ben quickly reaches for another dagger, knowing he must defend himself against the advancing

wolf. The wolf, walking on two legs like a man, raises its arm to swipe at Ben with its sharp claws.

Ben catches his reflection in the dagger, causing time to SLOW DOWN. In this dilated state, Ben analyzes the wolf's movements and decides how to evade its attacks. To an outside observer, it appears as if Ben is effortlessly sidestepping the wolf's strikes. Frustrated, the wolf turns to strike again, leaving itself vulnerable due to its own clumsiness.

Seizing the opportunity, Ben leaps high into the air and jabs his dagger into Kagan's shoulder. Utilizing his own weight advantage, Ben cuts and slices downward, slashing Kagan across the back.

But once again, time flows backward, reversing Ben's deadly slash. Every action is undone, as if it never happened. The wound on Kagan's back heals before Ben's eyes.

Kagan corrects his moves again and when forward time resume, Kagan swiftly strikes Ben with the back of his hand, sending him flying several paces back. Kagan does not immediately pursue Ben, struggling to remove the dagger lodged in his shoulder. This brief respite allows Ben a moment to recover from the powerful blow.

Ben, frustrated by the magic that constantly rewinds his actions, unsheathes another hidden dagger from the brace on his right arm. He takes two deep breaths, preparing for his next move. The wolf charges again and raises his right hand to strike Ben but in DREAM-TIME, Ben dodges lower and swings his blade for Kagan's exposed underarm, digging deeper to nick off the arteries holding Kagan's heart.

At that moment, Ben felt time stop and begin to flow backward again. Time unwinds to the moment his blade touched the wolf and holds Ben in place while allowing the wolf to adjust himself. As normal time resumes, Ben's swing is a miss and the wolf back handed him again and sends him flying. Ben loses consciousness.

DREAM START:

INT. SU'S DOMAIN, CAVE - DAY

Ben's consciousness is taken into the dream world. He stands in a rocky cave. A waterfall cascades down over the entrance, blocking out most of the light.

SU (V.O)

Why are you trying to harm my prince?

Ben turns to see Su.

BEN

Su? I should have guessed it was you.

SU

I cannot allow you to kill my prince.

BEN

He challenged me to a duel which you are violating by this interference.

SU

That's unfortunate. For you, that is, since he baited you knowing I always interfere.

Su stamps her staff on the ground. Translucent cyan magical chains appear from the walls and bind Ben's arms.

BEN

(struggles against the chains)

Is detaining people your specialty?

CUT TO: THE WAKING WORLD

INT. ARENA - DAY

The wolf prince takes advantage of Ben's vulnerability and backhands him, sending him flying several paces back. Ben loses his grip on his daggers, which fall to the ground. He remains motionless, his body battered and bloodied.

(PAN TO)

Nancy buries her face into her aunt's chest, unable to bear witness to the brutal scene unfolding before her.

(PAN TO)

Tiana shoots up from her seat the moment Ben freezes. She begins to move away from the rows of seats, making her way towards the aisle that leads out of the building. The realization hits her like a punch to the gut - Ben is dying.

(PAN TO)

Pantherio, a voice from behind the gratings, urges Ben to get up.

PANTHERIO

(desperate)

Get up... get up, kid!

BACK TO: THE DREAM WORLD

INT. SU'S DOMAIN, CAVE - DAY

Ben attempts to ghost, but the chains glow with a reddish hue, refusing to release their grip. He closes his eyes, taking a deep breath to calm himself. Su interrupts his concentration.

SU

That won't work. This space is sealed off..

Su's words are cut short as water seeps into the cave. Soon, the entire floor is submerged, and the water level continues to rise. Ben opens his eyes to find a duplicate version of himself standing before him. He looks to his right and sees another duplicate appear. Now, there are four identical versions of Ben, each replicating his every move like a mirror. One of the duplicates touches the chains, causing them to explode into colorful dust and vanish. He addresses Ben.

DUPLICATE BEN

Go. We will handle Su here.

Su raises her voice, desperately pleading with Ben.

SU

If the prince dies, the army of Rotonis will invade your capital and destroy everything!

DUPLICATE BEN

Go!

Ben is compelled to obey his duplicate's command and he disappears from Su's domain.

CUT TO: THE WAKING WORLD

DREAM END

INT. ARENA - DAY

Ben, battered and bruised, opens his eyes and feels the pain surging through his body. Kagan's brutal attack has taken its toll. The wolf steps onto Ben's back, preventing him from getting up. The crowd falls silent, captivated by the unfolding scene.

INSERT IMAGE: Esmeralda, determined, gets to her feet.

The wolf grabs Ben's head and exposes his vulnerable throat. He looks up at Esmeralda, who extends her thumb.

INSERT IMAGE: Tiana, filled with resolve, makes her way down the aisle, away from the arena.

(PAN TO)

Nancy, stricken with fear, watches Esmeralda wide-eyed. Esmeralda meets her gaze and smiles.

NANCY

(pleading)

Please.

Esmeralda reads her lips, but instead of showing mercy, she points her thumb downwards. She has made her decision.

REGENT ESMERALDA

(to Kagan)

Kill him!

(PAN TO)

Tiana unsheathes two daggers from her belt and swiftly runs up the aisle towards the walls of the arena. Reaching the edge, she dives inside with the determination of a swimmer entering a pool.

(BACK TO)

As the wolf prepares to strike and Ben's life hangs in the balance, his RETRACTABLE BLADE shoots out from his arm brace. Ben attempts to jab the wolf, but Kagan evades the attack and seizes Ben's hand, ready to deliver a fatal bite to his neck. Before the wolf can sink its teeth into Ben's exposed throat, Tiana intervenes. The wolf is violently thrown a distance away. The wolf regains its footing, facing this unexpected opponent. Tiana hisses like a cat, holding out her two daggers. The spectators are both awed and taken aback by this unprecedented turn of events.

(PAN TO)

Esmeralda, caught off guard, watches as soldiers positioned high up the arena walls become alert. They await the Regent's command to storm the arena within seconds. The integrity of the duel has been compromised. But the order never comes. Esmeralda believes Kagan can handle the situation.

(BACK TO)

TIANA

(to Ben)

What happened?

BEN

Su happened. She is reversing time.

TIANA

That settles it. I am not leaving you alone.

BEN

Ti, the soldiers... interfering is not allowed.

TIANA

I was never one to follow rules.

Their moment is interrupted by the wolf charging towards them. Tiana leaps after the wolf, grabbing him by the fur and pulling him away from Ben. She throws the wolf aside, standing between them. The wolf gets up, and Tiana readies herself. The crowd becomes excited.

The wolf knocks into Tiana with his bear hug and they hurl through the air. As soon as they touch down, Tiana pushes her legs up and pries him off of her and sends him crashing on his back. She pushes herself up in a rising spring and sits on top of him.

She buries a dagger in his shoulder then the beast hits her with the back of his hand and sends her flying meters away. The difference in brute strength is apparent. The beast follows and prevents her from getting up by striking her back down. He sends her from the ground by backhanding her again.

Ben cries out for Tiana, finding the strength to get up. He retrieves his sword and catches his reflection in it.

Determined, he charges towards the wolf, who sees him coming and charges back. Ben uses his dream-time ability to jab his sword into the wolf's shoulder. As he drives the sword further into Kagan, Time begins to flow backward.

CUT TO:

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY - DAY

The Rotonis army lies exposed. The barrier hiding them has been discarded. Thousands of tents cover the whole valley.

EXT. ROTONIS CAMP, SU'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

Su is sitting in a meditative posture outside her tent. She is leaning on her staff and concentrating. Blue robbed assistants are putting small crystals in a circle around her. She has discarded the barrier because she wants to pour all of her magic into assisting Kagan. Suddenly, Su stomps her staff on the ground causing all the crystals in the vicinity to glow. TIME REWINDS 2, 3 seconds and everyone goes in reverse with it before resuming normal forward time.

BACK TO:

INT. ARENA - CONTINUOUS

Ben, in DREAM-TIME, watches as Kagan skillfully deflects his sword and positions himself to capture Ben once time resumes.

(RESUME FORWARD NORMAL TIME)

Ben quickly reacts, diving out of harm's way, causing Kagan to crash into the sand. Ben struggles to get back onto his feet. The wolf charges again. Ben glances at his reflection, preparing himself once more. However, Tiana refuses to let him continue taking such risks, knowing he's not strong enough to face the werewolf in his battered state.

TIANA

I am your sword!

Tiana springs to her feet just as the wolf lunges for Ben. She pushes him out of harm's way, sacrificing herself in the process. The beast pounces on Tiana, bringing her to the ground. She struggles to overpower him as he goes for her throat, blood spurting out like a hose.

Ben rolls up, horror filling his eyes as he witnesses Tiana's tragic fate. Tiana embraces the wolf, momentarily pinning him down for Ben. Ben rushes forward, standing before the beast. He raises his sword high, the beast daring him with a defiant gaze.

Without hesitation, Ben strikes the side of the wolf's neck repeatedly, severing its head from its body. The wolf's decapitated head rolls onto the sand, blood spraying from its lifeless body, staining the ground. In that moment, TIME REWINDS, flowing backward once again. Kagan's head is reattached, the fatal blow undone. But time flows forward again and Tiana is not saved.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROTONIS CAMP, SU'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

Su coughs blood and gasps for air, having reached her limit. Crystals around her explode. Even the crystal at the end of her staff fails to keep its glow.

BACK TO:

INT. ARENA - CONTINUOUS

Ben is devastated that the time reversed did nothing to undo Tiana's mortal wound. He confronts Kagan, whose head has miraculously reattached and life restored. Ben's anger at the incomplete reversal of time grows, believing that Su only cares for Kagan.

Filled with grief and rage, Ben strikes Kagan once, swiftly separating his head from his body. Kagan collapses to his knees, and Ben, overcome with emotion, breaks down in tears.

Tiana releases the lifeless body of the wolf, letting it crash to the ground. As the fur dissipates, they are left staring at Kagan's mutilated head and body, his shorts stretched and torn.

INSERT IMAGE: The once-energetic crowd falls silent, their excitement abruptly halted.

Tiana struggles to breathe, choking on her own blood. Ben rushes to kneel before her, providing support as she leans back. He embraces her tightly, still weeping for her.

INSERT IMAGE: Nancy is shocked and saddened by Tiana's sacrifice.

BEN

Tiana, no. Why did you do that?

Ben applies pressure to the deep, wide gash on Tiana's neck, desperately trying to stop the bleeding. Tiana grabs his arm, urging him not to panic. She wants to speak to him, knowing her last breath is near, but she cannot.

He needs to calm her.

Tiana raises her trembling hand, gently touching Ben's face. He knows what to do. Ben leans in and tenderly kisses Tiana's forehead. She is peaceful now. Her hand falls lifeless to the ground, confirming her passing.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROTONIS CAMP, SU'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

Su is weeping and wailing. Her commanders gather around her not knowing the reason for her behavior. After a little while, she gets up to face them.

SU

The prince is dead. He has just been killed in the Onis city.

The commanders are surprised to hear this news.

SU

(screams in rage and grief)

Let's make them pay!

BACK TO:

INT. ARENA - CONTINUOUS

Ben slowly gets up and walks away from Tiana's body. He walks towards the royal platform and stops.

INT. ARENA, ROYAL PLATFORM - CONTINUOUS

Esmeralda had watched Ben decapitate Kagan and she was now standing on her feet. She wants vengeance. Esmeralda snaps her fingers and a fresh batch of soldiers come running. They stand on top of the arena walls, flanking it, holding bows and arrows. They draw their bows and aim their arrows against Ben. Nancy sees what is about to happen and she interrupts Esmeralda before she could give the order.

NANCY

(hurriedly)

Hold!

The soldiers turn to see that it was the princess telling them to stand down. Then Nancy descends from the stairs of her side and hurriedly ascends the stairs to Esmeralda to come stand before her.

NANCY (CONT'D)

He will not be harmed.

REGENT ESMERALDA

That is not for you to decide.

NANCY

I am deciding either way.

Esmeralda chuckles and addresses the crowd. There are crystals on the platform that amplify sound and make it possible to address the whole amphitheater.

REGENT ESMERALDA

(loudly)

The prince of Rotonis is dead... murdered because that young man, that alien, violated the rules of the duel. Rotonis will come for vengeance. Our cities will be destroyed. I must ask you... Does the princess even care about our kingdom?

The crowd boos and throws their fists at Ben. Aunt Josephine is troubled, while Nancy remains unmoved.

REGENT ESMERALDA

Soldiers who serve the crown, shoot that young man.

NANCY

(firmly)

You will not release those arrows! As the true heir, I command you.

REGENT ESMERALDA

I am the Regent! This is sedition. I order the princess' arrest. Take her away!

The soldiers take the cuffs and chains and move towards Nancy.

NANCY

(to the crowd)

Is that it?

(looks at the crowd)

Whose side do you think I'm on... of a thousand-year-old code or of the people alive today? How many here actually know the Regent, personally? Have you ever sat down with her or even met her out on the street? But I swear I have sat down with most of you and have even rubbed shoulders.

The crowd begins to murmur amongst themselves.

NANCY (CONT'D)

I am signed up with the Adventurers Guild and have taken up many of your requests to find missing people, mostly lost or kidnapped children. I join in your demonstrations petitioning the council to lower taxes. I am Adventurer 23.

The crowd's murmurs grow louder.

REGENT ESMERALDA

What does that prove? You are for fun and games?

NANCY

Do I seem, with my actions, as one playing games? How many here recognize me and what I did for them? Perhaps your child went missing and the local authorities couldn't find them, and I took up that request and found your child. Perhaps robbers made off with your valuables and you wanted them tracked? Perhaps some recognize me in weekly gatherings at the city hall? I am hard to miss - I am always forced to usher people in at the door.

Laughter from the crowd, realizing that they have indeed encountered Nancy in various situations.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Can we have a show of hands?

Many people in the crowd raise their hands.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Wow, so many. Do you also agree with the Regent that I do not care about my city?

CROWD

No!

Nancy smiles, feeling validated.

NANCY

War is indeed coming. Whether Prince Kagan of Rotonis was alive or not, he had every intention of invading this kingdom because why else would he hide his army in Munyati Valley not far from here?

The crowd murmurs in disbelief, shocked by Nancy's revelation.

(PAN TO)

High-ranking adventurers speak to Aunt Josephine, who then steps forward to join Nancy.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

The princess speaks the truth. A large Rotonis army has just been spotted and is heading towards our city.

The crowd erupts into more murmuring, realizing the imminent danger they are in. Nancy raises her hand to calm them down so she can speak.

NANCY

Do not panic. I will not let this city fall.

REGENT ESMERALDA

The bulk of our army has been sent to our borders on an exercise drill. Who will defend the city?

NANCY

(confidently)

First, who will stand with me?

Silence. The crowd does not understand what she is asking.

NANCY

Who will stand with me?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(aloud)

I, Josephine, city guilds master, will stand with you.

Next was leader of the ape forces.

DREIBO

I, Dreibo, commander of the king's guard, will stand with you.

GINA

I, Gina, Assistant Captain of the Order of Knights, will stand with you.

BANDA WARHAMMER

Banda Warhammer, administrator of the Adventurers guild, will stand with you.

More calls of support are heard from all over the amphitheater, and the crowd cheers for Nancy.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(to Nancy)

Give your first order.

NANCY

First, I am removing Esmeralda as Regent of this kingdom and placing her under arrest.

The soldiers approach Esmeralda and cuff her.

ESMERALDA

What is the meaning of this? I have done nothing deserving this kind of treatment.

NANCY (CONT'D)

(to the crowd)

Esmeralda murdering the king, my father!

The people are shocked.

ESMERALDA

How dare you?

NANCY

I have proof that Esmeralda, prince Kagan, and Belsha, former chief of the Bloodrubis, were all involved in a conspiracy to topple this kingdom. She'll appear in court to explain herself and receive her sentence.

(looks at Esmeralda)

See Esmeralda? It's not just the pills that I know about.

(looks at the soldiers)

Take her away.

They obey her command. Nancy turns to look at Ben who is relieved and she smiles at him.

EXT. ONIS CAPITAL, CITY GATES - DAY

The watchmen on the city walls look out to the plain in the distance and see the overwhelming numbers of the approaching Rotonis army. They sound a blaring alarm that echoes throughout the whole city.

INT. AMPHITHEATER - DAY

The capital city is in a state of panic as the sound of ALARMS echo throughout. The crowd starts filing out of the amphitheater and some are rushing. Dreibo, the ape commander, and his four companions step forward, bowing before Nancy.

DREIBO

What is your command, Princess?

NANCY

We must assemble what remains of our army and meet at the city walls!

They quickly leave to gather the remaining forces.

(PAN TO)

The gates into the arena open, and Pantherio, accompanied by some Knights, rush towards Ben.

PANTHERIO

(curious)

What was that all about?

Ben looks up at the platform, where Nancy is descending the stairs with her aunt. Suddenly, the soldiers who had previously arrested Esmeralda are thrown aside.

(**BACK TO**)

Nancy notices and sees Esmeralda breaking free from her chains, moving towards her. Nancy backs away in fear as she witnesses Esmeralda's transformation, her fingers turning into claws.

NANCY

(to her aunt)

Go! I will handle her.

Aunt Josephine hurries to fetch more soldiers.

NANCY

(facing Esmeralda who is partially transformed)

My father loved you. Then why...?

ESMERALDA

Isn't it obvious? Power is everything.

Nancy looks at Esmeralda with disgust. Esmeralda grabs Nancy and hurls her against the walls. Her eyes turn, and her teeth grow longer, resembling those of a lion. She goes for Nancy's throat, but Nancy reveals a hidden dagger and stabs Esmeralda in the heart.

NANCY

That's for my father!

Esmeralda slaps Nancy and throws her into the tiers of seats. Nancy gets up and sees Esmeralda pull out the dagger. Esmeralda's body begins to change, becoming a she-wolf. Nancy turns and runs as the growls of the approaching wolf get closer.

(**PAN TO**)

Ben aims his arrow, summoning his strength. He glances at TIANA, lying in a pool of blood, fueling his anger. He's determined to make someone pay for this. He raises the bow and releases the arrow, striking the she-wolf in the ribs and throwing her into the next row.

(**PAN TO**)

Nancy gets up and looks toward the arena, spotting Ben with the bow. The wolf rises behind Nancy, unnoticed by her. Suddenly, Matthias and his pack come to the rescue. One dog jumps on the wolf, bringing her down. The rest of the pack swarm in, overpowering the she-wolf and killing her. A shadow falls from the sky just then, landing next to Nancy.

WONDERBEE

Sorry I'm late.

NANCY

(to Matthias)

Thank you.

MATTHIAS

Go save your kingdom.

Nancy mounts Wonderbee and commands her to fly into the arena.

(PAN TO)

NANCY

(to Ben)

Hop on. We're going to the city walls.

Ben obeys, and they take off.

(PAN TO)

Aunt Josephine watches them fly by and quickly hurries into her carriage.

EXT. CITY WALLS - DAY

Soldiers are stationed on top of the outer walls, armed and ready. Other soldiers hover on flying bikes and large battleships. Big automated guns spin around, aiming towards the advancing enemy. The sun is setting on the horizon, casting a darkening shadow over the scene. Wonderbee lands on the highest wall platform, where the generals await Nancy. They bow before their princess.

GENERAL#1

We have devised a plan of defense and attack.

NANCY

Gentlemen, that won't be necessary today

The generals exchange confused glances. Ben looks out to the plain and sees the massive enemy armies. Aunt Josephine approaches, having only now arrived.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(to Nancy)

What is the plan?

NANCY

I need to touch the minds of Our people and of those armies.

(showing her amulet to her aunt)

At best I have used telepathy on 30 people and that was draining.

Aunt Josephine thinks for a moment.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

We can create a magic boosting circuit. The soldiers and everyone present will supply you with their mana.

Nancy and Aunt Josephine gather the generals, commanders, and knights in a single file, forming a chain.

NANCY

(excluding Ben)

You need to regain your strength, Ben.

The last person in the line is Aunt Josephine, with Gina's hand on her shoulder. Nancy faces forward toward the plain as her aunt places her hand on Nancy's shoulder. Mana flows from each person, passing through the chain, until it reaches Nancy at the front. Nancy closes her eyes, focusing on the magic boosting. Ben watches Nancy intently. After a moment, Nancy opens her eyes. It is magnificent. Her eyes shine as if green stars are inside her head. Her light is also visible to others and not just to Ben anymore.

NANCY

Here goes.

Nancy conjures a faint magical sphere, resembling a hologram, and pushes it outward with incredible speed.

NANCY

I am touching 200 minds now in the city... 500 minds... a thousand!

However, the soldiers in the chain, overwhelmed by the mana drain, briefly lose consciousness, breaking the circuit. Nancy's light dims, and she rushes to help her aunt.

NANCY

What happened?

Ben understands what has happened and he steps forward.

BEN

(to Nancy)

I will do it. I will be the magic circuits that you lack. I believe I am strong enough for this.

Nancy and Aunt Josephine look at Ben, surprised by his assertion.

DREAM START:

INT/EXT. DREAM WALKER DOMAIN, WISDOM TREE - NIGHT

Ben finds himself standing before the majestic Wisdom Tree, its branches reaching towards the starry night sky. He looks at it, calmed by the sight. The ground beneath him shimmers with water, creating an ethereal effect.

DREAM END

EXT. CITY WALLS - SUNSET

Ben stands behind Nancy, placing his hand on her shoulder. They both gaze out at the vast plain before them. Nancy closes her eyes, centering herself. When she opens her eyes again, they shine with a familiar magical glow. The magical sphere reappears, growing in size and speed as it rushes outward. Its aim is to cover the entire city and encroach upon the approaching armies. As the mana flows from Ben to Nancy, he feels a significant drain within him. It surges through his body, following the path of his right arm that rests upon Nancy's shoulder, transferring his energy to her.

NANCY

(out loud, counting)

I have touched 5000 minds now... 10000... 50000...

The soldiers, knights, and even Aunt Josephine are stunned by the incredible display. Ben's solo supply of mana far surpasses the previous attempts, and Nancy is now close to surpassing 80000 minds. Aunt Josephine, standing closest to Ben, is in awe of his power and determination. She looks at him, realizing that the stories she heard about him were not exaggerated. Ben is truly a magnificent young man.

As Ben continues to support Nancy, someone else suddenly appears and touches Nancy's right shoulder, joining him in the magic circuit. Aunt Josephine's eyes widen, and she covers her mouth to suppress her surprise. The person who has appeared is ANNA, Nancy's mother and Aunt Josephine's sister. Anna, translucent like a spirit, stands beside Nancy, her presence undeniable. Nancy's sphere rushes across the plain, guided by her will. Ben, on the verge of exhaustion, feels a renewed strength as Anna places her hand on his shoulder, supporting him by directing mana his way. Ben nods to Anna, signaling that he is fine. The exchanged look between Ben and Anna reveals to Aunt Josephine that these two have met before, and they have had a discussion.

Now nothing is hidden from Nancy and over a hundred thousand minds are exposed to her. Their hearts and minds are now in the palm of her hands.

Her mind is operating in accelerated time and she is now like a supercomputer sifting through data. Everyone in the city she groups and covers with BLUE LIGHT while the hostile force she covers with a REDDISH LIGHT. Now she can command the minds to listen to her and she can decide to reason or to compel.

NANCY (via telepathy)

I greet everyone. My name is Nancy, the princess of the Onis kingdom, and also the princess of planet Xeronis, the fabled planetary leader everybody talks about but haven't actually met.

(PAN TO)

The entire crowd is in awe, wondering how she could possess such power. Even the armies have ceased their advance, intrigued.

(BACK TO)

NANCY (via telepathy) (CONT'D)

I speak now to the armies of the Rotonis kingdom. I am the same princess your leaders have targeted and put a bounty on. They have brought you here to wage war against this kingdom. But I tell you this: as the planet leader, my authority surpasses theirs. If you wage war with this kingdom, you wage war with me. If you harm this city or its citizens, you harm your own princess.

(PAN TO)

The crowd listens intently, captivated by Nancy's words.

NANCY (via telepathy) (CONT'D)

Instead, I humbly ask you, implore you to lay down your arms and return home.

(PAN TO)

The leaders initially laugh, but soon their laughter is replaced by uncertainty. Nancy watches their reaction closely, hoping they will choose wisely.

NANCY (via telepathy) (CONT'D)

If you refuse to call off this attack, there will be consequences.

The soldiers in the Rotonis army exchange looks, torn between their commanders' orders and Nancy's plea. The commanders urge them to attack. The armies resume their march again and attempt to silence the voice in their heads by blowing trumpets.

(BACK TO)

NANCY (via telepathy) (CONT'D)

You will obey.

Nancy's amulet shines brightly, emitting green rays that awe everyone present. Then, a gentle hum resonates, soothing and vibrant. Ben feels a little dizzy, but tears well up in his eyes as the power touches his soul.

(PAN TO)

The hum intensifies on the other side of the divide, becoming an explosive wave of green light that sweeps across the plain. It disrupts the armies, rendering their machines useless. Bolts and nuts unscrew, gizmos disassemble, and circuitry fries. The soldiers drop their weapons and cover their ears, overwhelmed by the relentless hum. Some fall to their knees, pleading for Nancy to stop the onslaught of pain.

Su raises her staff to cast defensive magic, but even her magic fails against Nancy's might. She, too, falls to the ground, covering her ears. Nothing can withstand Nancy's power.

(BACK TO)

As Nancy's amulet extinguishes its light, silence engulfs the plain. Ben steadies himself, in awe of what he just witnessed. As the soldiers begin to recover, Nancy speaks to them once more.

NANCY (via telepathy)

All the stories you heard are true. There hasn't been a princess of Xeronis for a thousand years, until now. Will you still attack your own princess? You are all my people now. I implore you once again, do not attack this city, and I promise you won't be harmed.

INSERT IMAGE: The armies rise, ignoring their commanders, and begin their journey back to where they came from.

INSERT IMAGE: The city erupts in cheers and applause, celebrating the extraordinary power their princess possesses. Nancy has saved them all.

Nancy turns to see her mother before her.

NANCY

(surprised)

Mother?

ANNA

(smiling)

Hello, Moonshine.

Nancy wants to touch her but finds she can't. Anna is still in spirit form. Aunt Josephine comes to stand with Nancy and to face her sister too.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(emotional)

I missed you so much.

ANNA

Jose... you did a remarkable job raising her. I am so proud of the two of you.

Ben stands in awe, looking at the aftermath of the earthquake caused by Nancy earlier. Nancy and Aunt Josephine are chatting with Anna and catching up. Nancy calls out to Ben.

NANCY

Ben, come say hi!

(he comes to stand beside her)

Ben, meet my aunt... Josephine.

BEN

It's very nice to meet you, ma'am.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(smiling)

Call me aunt. I was mad at first, but I'm glad Nancy brought you to Xeronis.

NANCY

And though you have already met, this is my mother, Anna.

BEN

It's an honor.

ANNA

I will be counting on you, Ben. Keep my daughter safe. But above all, keep her happy.

BEN

(looking at Nancy)

I will give it my all.

ANNA

I just wish Gordon was here to witness this. But I am glad he wasn't alone in his passing.

Anna begins to fade away.

ANNA

My time here is up. Don't fret too much. I am not leaving just yet. You know where to find me.

Nancy nods as Anna finally vanishes. The generals and commanders, stunned, approach Nancy and fall to their knees.

INSERT IMAGE: Everyone in the city, soldiers and citizens, watching her on 3D screens, kneel before her.

Nancy holds Aunt Josephine's hand and then takes Ben's hand, preventing them from bowing down. Everything else might change, but not the relationship she has with these two.

NANCY

(to her aunt and Ben)

Stand by my side.

Nancy looks out to the city they just saved, her kingdom left by her father. With her new responsibilities, she vows to love every corner of it and the entire planet.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. ONIS KINGDOM CAPITAL - DAY

(TEXT: TWO MONTHS LATER)

NARRATOR (V.O)

Nancy did not immediately assume the throne.

A coronation ceremony is in progress. It is an outdoor event since Yellowbee, the queen of the dragons, is too big to fit into any building. Silverbee and Wonderbee are also present. Ben, Aunt Josephine, Matthias, and Spot sit on the front benches. Crystal cameras are scattered throughout, capturing the entire kingdom's attention on Nancy's coronation.

INSERT IMAGE: Citizens are watching the event on different screens.

Nancy is holding the crown but and standing on a podium.

NANCY

In choosing a Regent, my father shouldn't have looked far. He should have looked right before his eyes and

he would have seen the person who has a heart for his people. Auntie, can you come up here, please?

Aunt Josephine is taken by surprise, her mouth gaping open.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Auntie, we are waiting.

Ben is the first to clap, followed by the rest of the crowd, encouraging Aunt Josephine. She gathers herself and walks to the front, standing before Nancy. Nancy places the crown on Aunt Josephine's head.

NANCY (CONT'D)

A crown fit for a queen.

Nancy turns to face the people.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Behold, your Regent Queen.

The people cheer for the Regent. Nancy hugs her aunt and then goes to sit beside Ben.

QUEEN REGENT JOSEPHINE

Thank you, princess. You should have told me in advance so I could have prepared a nice little speech for the people.

(chuckles)

Well, I'm honored, and I accept the duties of this very high office...

The rest of the Regent's speech becomes indistinct to Ben and Nancy as they hold hands and gaze into each other's eyes.

EXT. PLANET EARTH, SKY - DAY

A wormhole hangs in the sky. A flying bike shoots out and descends into the woods.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Ben punches a code on a scroll computer and watches the flying bike vanish into thin air. He glances at his small satchel, containing clothes from the Onian palace.

EXT. FAMILY HOUSE - DAY

Ben approaches the front porch of his family house. MUSIC plays from inside the house. He knocks on the door.

BEN'S MOTHER (50'S) opens the door. She cannot believe what she is seeing. Tears stream into her eyes. She immediately pulls Ben into a tight hug. It's clear that Ben's disappearance had caused great worry. They step inside the house and close the door behind them.

(CAMERA PANS TOWARD THE SKY)

NARRATOR (V.O.)

This story does not end here. There is still more to share about this extraordinary planet called Xeronis. This is the first part; this is just the beginning. The end is still to come.

FADE OUT.

THE END

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