

THE PRINCESS OF
PLANET XERONIS

PART ONE

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

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(DARKNESS)

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

FADE IN:

EXT. PLANET XERONIS, CANYON - DAY

(TEXT: PLANET XERONIS)

NANCY (17-YEAR-OLD BLONDE GIRL) flies above a lifeless expanse on her **FLYING BIKE**. In the depths below, a ten-horned dragon (**MARSMODO**), covered in scars, with terrible eyes, patiently watches her, calculating her speed and route.

EXT. GREEN WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Nancy zips past a dense forest, 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. A voice of a nerdy 12-year-old boy narrates.

NARRATOR (V.O)

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

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

(TEXT: PLANET EARTH)

BEN (23, AFRICAN), a young modern-day adventurer is camping under a clear, star-filled sky. Suddenly, a **WORMHOLE** emerges in the sky, a tunnel of coiling light. 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. Ben is gob smacked. 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.

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. She enters the wormhole.

INT. WORMHOLE

Ben, now trapped inside the vehicle, watches helplessly as the Earth disappears behind them.

EXT. PLANET XERONIS - NIGHT

(TEXT: PLANET XERONIS)

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. They descend.

EXT. THE ONIS KINGDOM, WOODS - CONTINUOUS

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.

INT. GLASS CYLINDER - CONTINUOUS

Ben watches as the alien girl comes to the bike and take the 'infamous' flash light. She releases 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.

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.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

As Ben is running, he steps into a snare and is hoisted into the air. He is swung so hard that he bangs his head against the trunk of the tree. He goes unconscious.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. PLANET XERONIS, WOODS - NIGHT

Ben's eyes flutter open. Nancy is kneeling before him. He is propped against a tree. He tries to sit up but 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)

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

Beitbridge town.

NANCY

I mean, are you from this planet?

BEN

Eh...? Planet Earth, obviously...?

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

WONDERBEE

(excitedly)

An Earthling...!

(to Nancy)

Why did you bring him along?

NANCY

Eish...! He probably 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 (VOICE OF A BOY)

Hi, and sorry about that.

Ben is thrown off to hear a dog speak.

BEN

You talk?

SPOT

I blabber, whisper and sing, but can't whistle.

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

NANCY

Spot... meet Ben from Beitbridge, 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

Hey, 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

(**TEXT:** ONIS CITY, CAPITAL OF THE KINGDOM)

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. I am a responsible girl after all.

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

Complaints are stacking. Disappearing acts... really?

NANCY

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

KING GORDON

Adventure too important to study law and history?

NANCY

I know our history. You tell me every day. It is immortalized in our tired customs and uninspiring traditions.

The advisors are not amused. They murmur and clear their throats in disapproval. Nancy is having the time of her life with them.

(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)

She'll be up soon.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(mischievously, shutting her door)

Care for a biscuit?

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)

How lovely of you to knock. So civil.

NANCY

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

Nancy sits beside her and gets comfortable while her aunt remains glued to her book.

NANCY

I found Earth.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

I know.

NANCY

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

AUNT JOSEPHINE

I know.

(looks at her)

But two weeks is a long time given the very interesting 'souvenir' that you brought back.

NANCY

How could you possibly know that?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

I have my sources.

NANCY

I don't believe this. Spot...?
(Spot crawls out from under the bed, chuckles sheepishly)
You told her about Ben?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(sets her book down)

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)

I can explain.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Those are famous last words, young lady. Abduction?

NANCY

I wouldn't call it that.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

If the Council finds out, that's years of explaining.

(mourns with her head in her hand)

Why do I let you out of my sight?

NANCY

(rises and strolls around the room)

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

AUNT JOSEPHINE

He is... how old exactly?

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

Can't you stay still for twenty-four hours?

NANCY

Don't you mean sixteen?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Ha! The Xeronian hour is way too long.

NANCY

Don't you ever consider visiting? Even once...?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

I hate flying.

NANCY

Well, I love it. Isn't this great?

(smiling)

An Earthling like you... here with us on Xeronis. I wonder what sort of stories he'll tell me?

(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 mounts 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 the 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 and applies a touch of grease onto her face. This look blends perfectly with the common people of the city.

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. GORGE - DAY

(BEN'S POV)

Camera elevates and ascends dark rock. Fog is thick here. Standing upon a summit is **BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE**, an exact replica of Ben's physical self though ghost like. He is looking out toward the distance... there, a giant winged creature (MARSMODO) darts into view for a moment and is soon obscured by the fog. Camera, imitating a panicked observer, stays on the fog a bit before Ben's dream double grabs camera and turns the focus onto himself. He speaks directly into camera.

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE

You are heading into danger.

He drops camera and in free fall, view retreats.

DREAM END:

EXT. WOODS - MORNING (CONT'D)

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

(a chuckle, 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. Ben looks ahead as they head toward fog. Canyon and gorge emerge.

EXT. CANYON, FLYING BIKE - CONTINUOUS

Molten rock and burning brimstone. The fog obscures everything. Ben does not like this part of the tour. Even Wonderbee who is leading them now seems restless, her ears perking this way and that.

NANCY

Is everything alright girl?

WONDERBEE

We are not alone.

(looks at Nancy)

I will go check it out.

Then she takes off and disappears before Nancy can stop her.

NANCY

Wait! Duh...! I hate it when she does that!

BEN

(BEAT)

I can tell you three are close.

NANCY

Yeah, we are an odd-looking trio.

BEN

(chuckles)

...

As he looks about for Wonderbee who seems to have disappeared, their bike is suddenly intercepted! A huge dragon (MARSMODO) just rises from the depths below and knocks their bike hard and tries to flip it over, and he is gone from sight.

This is a huge surprise and they are almost thrown over but Nancy is quick to reclaim the controls.

BEN

What was that!?

NANCY

(she has not seen it either)

Take Spot.

Ben takes the puppy and places him between them. His hands go around her to avoid being thrown over. As they continue searching and going about steadily, Marsmodo rises again but this time he hovers and blocks their path. Marsmodo's wings are sending small tornadoes against the bike and then he unexpectedly sends embers of fire against them which are stopped by the bike's shielding. Even Nancy is in shock. She collects herself and suddenly accelerates forward to make a curve to the right. Ben looks back and sees how her tactical decision avoids further flames sent their way. After the flames go out, Marsmodo emerges from the curve in pursuit.

BEN

(officially panicking)

Nancy, FASTER!

She gets the hint and leans forward.

EXT. ROCKY HILL TOPS - CONTINUOUS

There is a mist below them like a cloud layer, and then rock pillars emerge from below to form an intricate system, like a Stonehenge. Some are rocky hill tops. Rocks make tunneling patterns that Nancy can swerve around. But Marsmodo is bulldozing into these weak rocks, sending dust, rubble, and fire after them. Nancy is using the environment to her advantage as best as she can, but so far it has not been enough. They are like fighter jet planes dancing on the wind. Marsmodo pushes and pushes against the air just to gain on them.

BEN

It's closing in!

NANCY

Hold on!

Nancy suddenly pulls the bike back, following a half-circle, avoiding a rock boulder in front that Marsmodo has not yet seen. He crashes into the rock and breaks it into a thousand pieces. But he is not done for yet. Nancy rolls the bike on air and safely plants them in a gorge way that leads eastward.

EXT. GORGE WAY - CONTINUOUS

Ben sighs as he cannot see Marsmodo anywhere behind them.

BEN

That was good.

NANCY

Years of practice.

The engine is as silent as the breeze. This fog makes them almost invisible... almost. A powerful shock comes from underneath the bike and throws it awkwardly forward with the front facing down and the bike in a dizzy spin. Before she can master her bike, Marsmodo comes knocking on the bike again, and this time the engine shuts down. Gravity takes over, and the bike falls into the mist below, and only their cries ascend. Then everything goes quiet. Everything... including the roars of the dragon.

FADE OUT.

**FADE IN:
DREAM START:**

EXT. GORGE, LEDGE - DAY

It is only momentary but Ben is unconscious from the fall. Though lying still, he can clearly hear everything going on around him.

(DOLLY IN TO A CLOSE ON BEN'S CLOSED EYES)

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (O.S)

You didn't listen.

(sighs in resignation)

The dragon, his name is Marsmodo.

(DOLLY OUT)

DREAM END:

EXT. LEDGE ON GORGE - DAY (CONT'D)

Ben opens his eyes as he regains consciousness with the ending of the dream. He picks himself up to look around. They have crashed on a ledge. He hurries to Nancy who lies on her belly; she is unconscious.

BEN

(searching for a pulse, softly)

Nancy...?

(Spot approaches; he assures him)

She'll be okay.

Ben gets on his feet and looks at the flying bike which lies on its side. He moves to it and touching it electrocutes him. He jerks back and shakes his left hand from the pain. He looks at the gorge wall and sees a rising path which disappears into the mist above. He looks at the puppy.

BEN

Stay here with her.

SPOT

(pleads)

Don't leave us.

BEN

Trust me.

Then Ben runs to the walls and begins to make the ascent. Before long the mist turns red as Marsmodo descends to inspect his kill.

INSERT CUT: Ben does not stop running up.

Spot is now barking furiously. As Marsmodo nears, as his towering shape silhouettes against the sky, Spot goes dead silent, tucks his tail, and whimpers beside his princess.

INSERT CUT: Ben stops and picks a rock, and he looks down below. He then hurls the rock which goes spinning down till it hits Marsmodo on the head, drawing his attention upward.

BEN

(screams)

Hey, pick on someone your own size!

Marsmodo roars ferociously at him and then he comes back up and flaps his wings to hover before Ben. Ben moves back to the walls - Marsmodo is really large.

Marsmodo throws his head back but Ben is not going to wait to be roasted alive. Fire leaps against Ben who runs up and ducks behind rocks. Marsmodo knocks the walls of the gorge with his tail and horns. Chunks of rocks fall as the passage upward, and the passage downward, is destroyed. Ben is left standing on a raised platform and unable to escape.

EXT. GORGE, LEDGE - CONTINUOUS

Nancy opens her eyes and she sits up straight. She then looks around. Her gaze flies upwards. She gets to her feet and runs to her bike. She pushes it over and mounts while calling Spot who runs up to her.

EXT. GORGE, RAISED PLATFORM - CONTINUOUS

Ben presses hard against the wall as he looks Marsmodo in the eyes. Marsmodo growls and grins as he comes closer to the platform.

MARSMODO

(voice, a deep rumble from the belly)

Where is she, human?

BEN

Where's who?

MARSMODO

(thrusting his clawed hand to pin Ben to the wall)

The princess! You reek of her.

BEN

I don't know who you are talking about.

MARSMODO

You lie.

Then Marsmodo unleashed his flames onto the rock not far from Ben's right, causing him to writhe away from the heat.

MARSMODO

(demands)

Where is the girl?

BEN

I don't know...

Then another breath scorches the rock and begins to turn it red. Ben begins to groan as the heat becomes unbearable but he is still defiant. Marsmodo makes to breathe again but he speaks.

BEN

Wait. I'll show you to her.

MARSMODO

(hisses)

Where?

BEN

(looking around)

Inside a cave, here somewhere.

MARSMODO

Why lie? You don't even know her.

Marsmodo takes Ben into his right hand to bring him closer to his face. Ben hangs limp in his grip because he trembles with fear, and the red serpent eyes of Marsmodo are not helping. He is like a little doll in the arms of the beast. He clutches onto Marsmodo's scaly fingers and holds on because of vertigo; he has no idea how far the depths drop but his body is convinced somehow that they are pretty high up. Marsmodo clutches onto the face of the rock wall like a bat.

MARSMODO

Would you die for a person you just met?

BEN

How do you know that?

MARSMODO

I know everything! She is naïve.

BEN

(failing to release himself from the hold)
She is the princess. Why are you doing this? Surely there are consequences.

MARSMODO

(squints eyes at him, brings him even closer)
Are you stalling for time? I will have you know... no one is coming. There is no one to help you. There is only pain and despair.

Marsmodo leaps off the walls and hovers. He looks around.

MARSMODO

(tease)

Oh princess! Come out, come out from wherever you are.

INSERT CUT: Nancy is close all along. She is hiding behind a large rock boulder and peeping over to Ben and to Marsmodo.

MARSMODO

Come out right now or he is putty in my hands.

BEN

She's long gone.

MARSMODO

Silence!

BEN

Just put me down so I can be on my way. This has not been fun at all.

Ben suddenly starts groaning in pain. Marsmodo has begun squeezing his hand and is crushing him.

MARSMODO

If she is truly gone as you say, then what do I do with all my frustration?

INSERT CUT: Nancy hears Ben scream out in pain and beg Marsmodo to stop. It eats her inside that he is suffering for her sake.

MARSMODO

Do you hear his screams? I can do this all day until you come out. I will break bone after bone.

NANCY

(screams)

Stop!
(she has made her choice, comes out to the open)
Don't hurt him.

She hovers on her flying bike. Marsmodo grins in victory.

MARSMODO

There you are. Now you die!

BEN

No!

A cry escapes Ben's lips as Marsmodo takes a deep breath and Ben can see flames gather inside him through the translucent skin of the beast's throat. Nancy raises her hand to cover and brace herself. Ben is thinking fast. Isn't there anything he can do to save her... before it's too late?

BEN

(blurts out)

Marsmodo!

MARSMODO

(stops gathering his flame)
Huh...? What did you say?

BEN

(points at Marsmodo, he has the dragon's attention now)
Marsmodo.

MARSMODO

How do you know me? Who are you?

BEN

You need to stop.

MARSMODO

(considers, but)

No. I will question you properly after I am done with her.

Ben is so not looking forward to that. Then Marsmodo gathers his flames again and he will not be distracted further.

Wonderbee shoots out of the mist in the nick of time just to save them. She comes ramming into the bigger dragon with her horns and the impact drives them in a trajectory that sends flames flying everywhere. Marsmodo releases Ben in free fall.

INSERT CUT: Ben looks helplessly at the spinning world as he falls. Is this the end for him?

Wonderbee quickly dives after Ben. She catches him expertly in an embrace and then she opens her powerful wings which bear both of them up again before they could crash against the rocks below.

Marsmodo has recovered quickly and he comes to grab Wonderbee and then he swings and knocks her into the gorge wall.

EXT. GORGE, PLATFORM - CONTINUOUS

Wonderbee leaves Ben lying safely on a platform and then she turns around in rage at whoever had threatened her friends. She answers Marsmodo's attacks by belching out flames and unleashing them upon him. He recoils in an attack with his tail.

Ben looks helplessly as the two dragons clash at each other not very far from where he stands trapped.

Wonderbee dashes and sinks her teeth in the throat of Marsmodo who roars hoarse in pain. He falls with her into deeper parts of the gorge, a gorge that seems to descend without end.

NANCY

Hop on!

Nancy's voice snaps Ben out of his trance. She is hovering above the platform. Ben looks at her and then back down into the gorge. Wonderbee hops into the air to fly up to them but Marsmodo grabs her tail and pulls her in a tug.

WONDERBEE

(cries after them)

Go! I am right behind you! Go!!!

Then she turns for Marsmodo and begins biting him furiously.

NANCY

Ben, come on!

Ben has to obey. The flying bike then shoots away.

EXT. GORGE, FOG AREA - CONTINUOUS

They are leaving this misty barren land. Silence. Nancy is shaking terribly. She slows down and stops the flying bike. She looks back but only distant roars of the fighting dragons reach them. Ben knows she is worried but his left hand is throbbing with pain. He looks at it and makes a fist. It is the pain from the electric shock he got from the bike earlier, and then... an idea hits him.

BEN

We need to turn back.

(Nancy looks at him)

He is going to kill her.

NANCY

But I don't know what to do. I'm scared.

BEN

I know. And I am scared too. He is strong but she is fighting that bully to save us. We need to help her. And it's not like we are entirely defenseless.

NANCY

What do you mean?

BEN

(he reaches his hand and touches the dashboard)

This... does it shoot lasers or... something?

NANCY

I haven't had need to use it.

BEN

Now you have.

EXT. GORGE, LEDGE - DAY

Wonderbee is sent crashing and cracking the ledge floor. Marsmodo roars triumphantly as she fails to rise.

NANCY

Hey!

Marsmodo has to turn to look and see who would dare interrupt.

NANCY

Eat this!

Nancy links her palm with the imprint on her bike's dashboard and then a path of lightning is drawn in the air from the flying bike to the dragon in an instance of time. Light shaped like vines, dances and surrounds the dragon. The atmosphere lights up before anyone can respond and then a crack of thunder deafens everyone. Marsmodo falls into the depths, burned to a crisp by the electric discharge and dead from the shock.

Ben squints his eyes and adjusts them. He is in disbelief. That worked. They have just slain a dragon.

Nancy sets the bike down and they all hurry to Wonderbee. Ben stands back a little as Nancy kneels before her. Wonderbee turns to look at them.

NANCY

You are a very brave girl. Are you okay?

WONDERBEE

(looks at Ben, staggers to her feet)

I'm okay now. Let's get out of here.

SPOT

I was just about to say the same thing.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Then they are flying out of the misty country side.

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 3 floors in the midst of tall trees.

BEN

Who lives here?

Ben asks as they dismount. He looks at the mansion in wonder.

NANCY

Friends.

Nancy goes to push and open the big doors and peep inside.

BEN

This mansion must be pretty old.

WONDERBEE

(moving past him and walking inside)

It's two hundred years old.

NANCY

(to Ben)

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

Then the three friends disappear inside.

BEN

(fascinated, the mansion is similar to gothic earth mansions)
Unbelievable.

Then there is a cracking sound in the thicket behind him. He turns and sees a large black dog growling and slowly advancing towards him. Three more are following at the sides of this **GREAT DANE**. There is a **GREYHOUND**, a **BLOODHOUND** and a **DALMATIAN**. Ben starts to slowly back away for the mansion. He looks at his sides and sees four more large dogs, **GERMAN SHEPHERDS**, walking faster to block the door. They have thrust him into their circle. Their rising growls make him feel like prey.

MATTHIAS

Stop!

A bark calms the dogs. Ben turns to look to the door and he sees a larger black 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.

BEN

That was a close one.

NANCY

I want you to meet their leader. His name is Matthias. Matthias meet Ben.

Matthias bows his head slightly.

NANCY

He'll be your companion... at least for a time till I open the portal and send you back to your home.

BEN

It's a pleasure to meet you, Matthias.

MATTHIAS

Just treat me as you'd treat a friend and don't bother with the formalities. I'll show you in when you are ready.

Matthias turns and heads back inside.

NANCY

I'm afraid we won't be joining you. We need to be heading back.

(looks at Wonderbee)

You are coming with me big girl. Your injuries need to be looked at.

Wonderbee drops her head.

NANCY

(looks at Ben)

I never said thanks. Without you, Wonderbee..

BEN

Stop. That's not necessary.

(pats Wonderbee's head)

It's me who is getting the bigger help.

He has lost all the timidity he had around Wonderbee. Nancy observes quietly and hides a smile.

NANCY

(re: MARSMODO)

I am curious though. How did you know his name?

This is the question that was on his mind too. Can he tell her the truth without sounding like a nutcase?

BEN

I had heard it in a dream.

NANCY

Oh...

BEN

I know, you are free to not believe me. I do not believe me either.

NANCY

(chuckles)

I believe you. You are a dream-walker.

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

(chuckles)

I thought the plan was to get rid of me quickly.

NANCY

No, not yet. I will bring a real meal tomorrow.

BEN

I'd appreciate that.

MATTHIAS

(coming to the door)

Don't worry princess; he's in good hands.

NANCY

That's what I'm afraid of.

(chuckles, and then)

Ben...

She moves towards him and then, unexpectedly, she hugs him, closing her eyes as if she has known him all her life, choosing unbridled trust. Ben is surprised, but then... time slows down. Nancy's golden locks glisten in the sunlight. She opens her green eyes to look up at him. They are the same shade as the EMERALD AMULET that is around her neck.

BEN

(clears his throat)

Um... tomorrow it is then.

She releases him while he tries to hide his embarrassment. She catches on and hides her smile again. Then she moves to her bike and Spot goes running into his carrier bag.

NANCY

Aren't you going to say goodbye?

SPOT

I hate goodbyes.

NANCY

What's this? You love him already?

SPOT

(complains)

Stop teasing me.

Nancy chuckles as she gets the bike in the air and Wonderbee ascends too. After looking at Ben briefly, they then shoot away. Ben turns to go inside when they disappear from view.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, SECOND FLOOR, ROOM - DAY

Ben enters a dusty room that hasn't been cleaned in ages. Matthias stands on the door. Ben 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.

INT. ONIS CITY, PALACE - DAY

Nancy gets in the palace with Spot on her heels, as is the norm.

INT. PALACE, GREAT STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

She ascends the great stairs and is ignoring the nobles who are looking at her with shocked faces. She is hurrying to her room when she bumps into her aunt.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

What in God's name happened to you?

(looking at her from head to toe)

Are you the princess or the street folk?

(touches Nancy's chin and studies the sides of her face; takes one whiff)

Is that smoke from dragon fire?

NANCY

(under her breath)

Fire is fire... who can tell it apart?

AUNT JOSEPHINE

(gives Nancy a scolding look so that she lowers her head)
What's that?

NANCY

Nothing.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

Let's get you cleaned. We can't have you looking like
a warrior before guests. Come.

She drags Nancy away.

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. The sweet juice
flooding his mouth makes him smile; he was starving.
He then takes in the sweet fragrance of the fruit before looking
at the setting sun.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, BEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ben, in tidied room, is sleeping in his bed. Moonlight is
streaming in.

(DOLLY IN TO A MEDIUM SHOT OF BEN)

DREAM START:

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, BEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

The focus is still on Ben who, though lying still in bed, can
still clearly hear what is going on around him.

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (O.S)

You survived. Impressive. But, you are still not in
the clear.

(BEAT)

I can tell you what I gathered since you entered this
mansion. Want to hear it?

Ben can only groan, deep in sleep paralysis.

(DOLLY IN TO A CLOSE UP SHOT OF BEN'S FACE)

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (O.S)

This mansion has all sorts of contraptions and traps.
On the walls, be on the look-out for levers and
buttons.

(DOLLY IN TO AN EXTREME CLOSE UP SHOT OF BEN'S CLOSED EYES)

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (O.S)

You are out of time. Wake up.

(DOLLY OUT)

DREAM END:

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, BEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ben opens his eyes as he wakes up. 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.

BEN

(calling out)

Matthias!

A shadow moves. It stands up, revealing itself as a seven-foot-tall, bipedal wolf (**WOLF#1**). The creature howls, and other howls answer. Sensing danger, Ben runs back into the mansion, bolting the door after him.

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 and wets the floor before Ben's eyes. Ben lies still, paralyzed with fear.

A charging sound, more footsteps. Wolf#1 raises his head expecting to see his friends. 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.

CUT TO:

INT. STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

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. FIRST FLOOR, PASSAGE - CONTINUOUS

Wolf#1 throws himself up and sends himself digging his claws into the concrete of 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.

CUT TO:

INT. 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.

CUT TO:

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 shatter 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. 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 a **TRAP DOOR** on the floor to swing 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.

CUT TO:

INT. 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 open 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

(releasing 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 his train.

AUNT JOSEPHINE

That went well.

Nancy does not think so.

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.

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 don't want to die on this planet.

NANCY

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

BEN

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

NANCY

I am no expert but I can 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 at the setting sun. Wonderbee comes to the window.

NANCY

There you are. I need you to do something for me.

WONDERBEE

Is this about Ben?

NANCY

You are the only one I can ask of this.

WONDERBEE

Say no more. I'll go help.

NANCY

Thanks, big girl, and do be careful.

Wonderbee nods and takes flight.

EXT. GROVE - NIGHT

It is night time again and the two satellites of Xeronis are up and high in the sky, the other now a crescent and the other still a full moon. Two wolves run 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, his choice of weapon tonight. He hasn't gone to his room to sleep and so 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 TO A MEDIUM SHOT OF BEN)

DREAM START:

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, FIRST FLOOR STAIRS - NIGHT (CONT'D)

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (O.S)

You survived again. Keep this up and I'll let you master the use of this space. Why should that interest you?

(DOLLY IN TO A CLOSE UP SHOT OF BEN)

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (O.S)

You will move around unseen, gathering knowledge, and the flow of time... time will slow down and wait for you.

(DOLLY OUT)

DREAM END:

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, FIRST FLOOR STAIRS - NIGHT

Ben abruptly wakes to the sound of HOWLING outside the mansion. He clutches his spear tightly, his heart racing. Determined, he races towards the windows to look outside.

INSERT CUT: Dogs chase one wolf into the woods. He is obviously a decoy.

Ben tiptoes through the dimly lit passageway, spear in hand. He crouches on the stairs, waiting patiently, poised for action.

(ANGLE ON: NET ON CARPET)

Below, an elaborate trap, disguised as a carpet, lies near the entrance.

INT. GROUND FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Wolf#1 cautiously enters, stopping before the strange carpet. He seems to sense the trap and retreats, disappearing outside.

INT. SECOND FLOOR PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ben changes his position, coming up to the second floor, realizing the threat from the windows. He silently rushes to the walls, pressing his back against them to listen. The sound of claws on the walls grows louder as Wolf#1 climbs.

Time is running out for Ben.

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.

INSERT CUT: Gravity pulls Wolf#3. Then he is falling down some twenty feet before he lands upon sharp, long poles cut that day for this task. Wolf#3 does not survive.

Ben releases the rope, landing safely on the floor.

INT. 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

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, and the wolf pounces.

INT. FIRST FLOOR STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Just as Wolf#1 is about to land on Ben, Wonderbee intervenes. she 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. 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.

INSERT CUT: 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

There's a chamber with hot showers inside.

BEN

(relieved)

Thank God! I was starting to live like an animal.

NANCY

(laughs at his joke, and then)

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.. She might make me give you up for adoption at the rate that she is going.

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. With what my instincts are telling me... 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

She gave that to a child? 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.

(watches as Nancy rubs her amulet, her eyes start glowing)

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)

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 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.

Nancy suddenly looks away, distracted by a BEEPING SOUND from her wristwatch.

NANCY

(regretfully)

Fun time's up for me. I guess there's always tomorrow.

BEN

Perhaps it'd help if you came earlier. You give me food, a place to stay, and yet I feel like I don't know you that well.

(Nancy nods)

SPOT

Don't forget my morning treat.

NANCY

(smiling)

I'll remember. Well, like Ben says, tomorrow it is.

ALL

(in unison)

Tomorrow it is!

They laugh. Ben is a bit embarrassed.

BEN

I do say that, huh?

Nancy nudges him playfully, and they walk her out toward her flying bike, saying their goodbyes once again before she leaves.

INT/EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS, DESTROYED BALCONY - NIGHT

Ben and Matthias meet on the third floor. Matthias sits on a piece of a destroyed balcony, gazing at the vast forest. Ben's outfit is a gift from Nancy.

BEN

Matthias, tell me everything you know about the wolves.

(Matthias looks at him)

I need to know why they were after the princess.

MATTHIAS

You're quite perceptive for picking that up.

BEN

I am surprising myself these days.

Matthias gazes into the woods ahead and begins.

FLASHBACK START:

EXT. GROVE, VALLEY - DAY

Matthias and his dogs are standing on a plateau as they spy upon a secret meeting in a valley. Two parties are gathered. One party wears dark robes and hoods and their faces are not seen. The other party has shirtless soldiers to watch their well-dressed leaders.

MATTHIAS (V.O)

Wolves have allied with bloodrubic. Both factions are hostile towards this kingdom.

One LEADER of the other party removes his hood to shake hands with the leader of the other party. Matthias now sees his features. He has porcelain white skin, a bald head, long fingers and scarlet eyes.

BEN (V.O)

Bloodrubic?

MATTHIAS (V.O)

They were once a powerful empire, but it crumbled in a war. Now, they seek to reclaim their land.

Matthias and his pack then leave.

FLASHBACK END.

INT/EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS, THIRD FLOOR BALCONY - NIGHT (CONT'D)

BEN

We must warn them. I have to tell Nancy.

Determined, Ben stands up.

MATTHIAS

You think they don't already know?

WONDERBEE

Tell her what, Ben?

Wonderbee emerges from the shadows, joining them.

BEN

Someone is clearly after her life.

MATTHIAS

Wolves and bloodrubic to be exact.

WONDERBEE

If there is a threat to our princess, taking protective measures makes the most sense.

BEN

(nods in agreement)

You're right. Matthias, are you with us?

MATTHIAS

Of course. You can count me in.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

The woods are eerily quiet, except for the sound of CRICKETS in the background.

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 unlocks her door, enters, and shuts it behind her. Nancy seizes the opportunity. She stands before the shut door, rubbing her amulet. Her eyes begin to glow as she attempts to learn Esmeralda's secrets. However, her eyes stop glowing. Something is inhibiting the process.

CUT TO:

INT. ESMERALDA'S CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Unbeknownst to Nancy, 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. Esmeralda looks at the towering figure of a caped being (**BELSHA 62**) with a hood that casts his face in shadow.

ESMERALDA

Chief... I thought I was coming to a funeral, but there is no such thing.

INSERT CUT: Nancy sees a green dome pulsate and push her mind back.

ESMERALDA

How did she manage it? Those 3 brothers were the best.

Belsha looks at the door, sensing Nancy's presence. He projects an image of a disembodied head into Nancy's mind, trying to invade it.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. MIND WORLD, ENDLESS DARKNESS - ??

Nancy turns around to see an empty space, knowing instantly where she is. A translucent, EMERALD SHIELD appears before her as spinning rings. They appear in time to block a floating head that has charged against her.

NANCY

(her voice echoing)

Who are you?

BELSHA

(surprised)

...

Nancy begins to back away, but the floating head keeps following. He circles around her, looking for a way past her spinning shield. He knocks into the shield violently, but it won't budge.

NANCY

(commanding, voice still echoing)

Get out of my head!

The head finally gives up and retreats back to where he was projected from.

BACK TO:

INT. PALACE, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Nancy's consciousness is back in the real world. She abandons her mission and searches for her room, still processing the terrifying experience she just had.

INT. ESMERALDA'S CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

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

ESMERALDA

What just happened?

BELSHA

I just met your princess. She was spying on your door a moment ago, but she is gone now.

Esmeralda goes to open her door and checks the passage. She returns after finding no one.

ESMERALDA

Send the contingent. I'll assist as much as I can from here.

The transmission ends.

FADE OUT.

(DARKNESS)

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (O.S)

Just like I promised: I am handing control over to you. Show me what you learned from your lucid dreams.

ASTRAL PROJECTION START:

FADE IN:

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, BEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Ben wakes up in his bedroom to a lovely morning and he notices that the ceiling is closer than usual. In a ghost-like astral body, he is floating above his physical body which is still lying asleep in bed. He rights himself and glides towards the shut windows to peek, but his hand goes through the handles and the glass. He floats outside going through the walls.

INT/EXT. BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

Ben floats on his balcony. Just in time, Nancy arrives and parks her flying bike. She rushes past the doors downstairs. Ben floats back into his room, going through the glass again.

INT. BEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nancy opens Ben's door without knocking and walks through Ben's astral body, which is invisible and is like air. Ben turns in annoyance but stops himself in curiosity as Nancy continues towards his sleeping body. She bends low beside the bed to look at Ben's face and then she stops herself from waking him. She takes this time to look intently at his face. Ben's astral form comes beside her to check on what she is doing. Nancy's small smile spreads on her face, and Ben realizes.

BEN (IN ASTRAL FORM)

Do you like me?

Nancy reacts to being spoken to. She looks but cannot pinpoint the exact source of the voice. Ben is amazed that she heard him. She gets up and goes to open the shutters, and a bright white light fills the room, overwhelming Ben's astral body.

ASTRAL PROJECTION END.

INT. BEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ben opens his eyes as Nancy opens the curtains, and the bright light rushes in.

NANCY

Wake up sleepy heads.

Ben turns over to look at her, and it is his full physical self that has woken up now.

BEN

You are early.

NANCY

Excuse me for keeping a promise.

(heading for the door)

Hurry up and get dressed. I'll be downstairs.

Ben looks at Spot and Wonderbee, who are still sleeping.

BEN

Seems we are going to need another hour.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS, BACKYARD - MORNING (LATER)

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, the present, and the future using dreams as a medium." Sweet...

(continues)

"They can also compress time. Seconds will flow like minutes, minutes like hours, and hours like days."

BEN

What...?

NANCY

(closes booklet)

This is too wordy. Practice is better.

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

There's a catacomb nearby. We can use a dream to scout for buried treasure, like actual adventurers.

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 and touches 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 by an unseen force and that was the cause of his physical body suddenly going limp. He looks around and then comes to observe Nancy's physical body, who is also sitting still concentrating on her magic.

(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 (A DOUBLE IN ASTRAL FORM)

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 exactly an amateur.

(looking around)

Hmm... this is a replica? 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

(noticing that his feet are not touching the ground)

How are you floating?

BEN

(whirling like a showman)

In dreams, you can do anything that you 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.

He 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, mimicking a shrill voice)
You mean dry old me? Sure, I 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)

Show us the treasure buried here.

Nothing happens.

NANCY

(disappointed)

So, nothing of value then?

(she releases Ben's hand)

BEN

Define value.

NANCY

(aloud)

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

The two are suddenly separated.

INT. CATACOMBS, SEALED-OFF CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Nancy turns to say something to Ben but is startled to find herself standing inside a sealed-off chamber. The scenery has just changed. This is still part of the catacombs, and so she decides to explore her surroundings while waiting for him to find her. There are intricate carvings on the chamber walls, along with writings that Nancy can read effortlessly.

(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 chief 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 through 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 appears and 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 turns to face him as rings of emerald light materialize around her body, shielding her.

NANCY

(recalling)

It was you... Chief Belsha?

BELSHA

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

NANCY

(looks at her automatic shields, understands they sense danger)
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.
(sighs)

I am sorry but you are not leaving this place alive.

The rings around Nancy suddenly glow brighter. Belsha reaches out and grabs the rings around Nancy, causing them to be absorbed into his cape. Her shielding is gone just like that. Belsha pulls out a large sword from within his cloak. Nancy bends low and unsheathes two daggers from her boots. She was going to defend herself.

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 and becomes her shield, receiving Belsha's sword strike.

Then... SOUND of metal clashing on metal. Ben amplifies 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. They have switched positions.

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. By the time I turned 12, I had mastered lucid dreaming. This is 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. CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

Ben changes tactics. The next sword strike he receives, he allows it to dig into his steel form, and then he binds it in place. Ben reaches to grab at air but he ends up catching Belsha by the neck who quickly 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 CUT: 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 CUT: 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 to impale with his sword-like hand the guard manipulating the chains and hammers.

INSERT CUT: 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#3

(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 the effects of the mind invasion magic... from my injury, the one you took.

WONDERBEE

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

(to the group)

...and, that's what happened.

WONDERBEE

Nancy, we knew bloodrubis were after you, but mind invasion? That's a surprise.

NANCY

You knew and didn't tell me?

WONDERBEE

We had everything under control. Matthias and his team would patrol the area...

NANCY

Huh... their eagerness to join us should have raised my suspicions.

WONDERBEE

(confronting Ben)

You should have killed him, Ben.

NANCY

(does not allow Ben to respond, defends him)

He did more than enough. He risked his life and for that, he deserves a reward from the king.

WONDERBEE

(eases up on Ben, hearing Nancy's words. To Ben)

How rude of me. Thank you for protecting my princess.

Matthias and his team gather before Ben.

MATTHIAS AND TEAM

Thank you for protecting our princess.

NANCY

(smiles at him softly, clings to him some more)

...

BEN

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

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT/EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - DAY AND NIGHT MONTAGE

INSERT CUT: Ben, with bandaged hand, sits on the balcony watching the sunset.

INSERT CUT: Ben, with bandaged hand, sits in the backyard in the morning with the dogs running around him.

INSERT CUT: Ben, with bandaged hand, sits on the stairs bored off his mind.

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

Good news. 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)

You are such a baby, 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. MANSION MATTHIAS, BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Nancy finally catches up to Ben and crashes onto the green lawn with him. She manages to snatch the scroll from him and holds it triumphantly over his face, laughing. Ben tries to reach for the scroll, but Nancy keeps her hands out of his reach, and then she hugs him. He can't get to the scroll now when they are like this. She grins mischievously at him and rests her head on his chest. She prefers their current position, enjoying their closeness.

BEN

You really do love hugs, huh?

NANCY

(giggles)

I'm like this with all my friends.

BEN

(probing)

Are there other friends in the city that I don't know about? Friends like... boys?

NANCY

(chuckles first)

No. And nobles can be tiring. They don't act natural around me.

BEN

Argh... because you are a princess?

Nancy nods and looks at Ben, her gaze fixed upon him. The two sit, arms around each other, resembling a couple.

NANCY

This is nice.

BEN

(smiling)

Not uncomfortable?

She shakes her head. Their moment of tranquility is interrupted by Wonderbee's approach.

WONDERBEE

Nancy, it's time to go.

NANCY

But I want to stay.

WONDERBEE

(warning)

Esmeralda has been keeping tabs on you. Do you want her to send guards here?

Reluctantly, Nancy releases Ben and turns to face her dragon friend.

NANCY

(whispering)

You're not helping!

WONDERBEE

You were supposed to read her mind a week ago, but you failed. We still don't know her true agenda.

BEN

(sensing tension)

You still suspect her cousin?

WONDERBEE

(frustrated with Ben)

A dragon's instinct should not be taken lightly.

Sadly, Nancy's guard is down because of you.

(comes closer as they stand)

She is putting herself in danger by coming to see you.

Why do you act like you don't know this?

NANCY

Wonderbee, that's enough.

WONDERBEE

(angry, getting in his face, ignoring Nancy)
Stop using her kindness against her. If something were to happen to her... by God...!

(towering over Ben, threatening)

NANCY

(sharply)

Wonderbee!

(coming between them, stern)

Wonderbee lowers her head, cowering. Seeing that Wonderbee has ceased her accusations, Nancy calms herself.

NANCY

If you have something on your mind then you say it to me. Not to Ben.

WONDERBEE

Yes princess. I'm sorry. I don't know what came over me.

NANCY

Fine. I will go.

(turns to Ben, rubs his hand gently, reassures him)

Forget what she said. I'll see you tomorrow, okay?

BEN

Travel safe.

Nancy scoops up Spot into her arms, preparing to leave. She turns to Wonderbee, grabbing her by the horns to mount her.

NANCY

(commanding)

Fly, girl.

Wonderbee shoots up into the sky, carrying Nancy and Spot away. Ben watches them go. Matthias approaches him.

BEN

(to Matthias)

So, Wonderbee is scary.

MATTHIAS

I am surprised you are still alive.

BEN

Haha. Wait, is that a joke? That's a joke, right?

Matthias just chuckles as he starts heading back. Ben follows him, persistent.

EXT. ONIS CITY, HILL - CONTINUOUS

Nancy does not have Wonderbee fly her straight into the city. They take a small detour and perch upon a hill. Spot goes off to mark some trees with his scent.

Nancy stands on the summit of the hill, looking out at her beautiful city. The wind blows her hair behind her like a waving flag. Wonderbee comes to stand beside her.

NANCY

Spit it out.

WONDERBEE

Promise you won't get angry?

NANCY

I am sorry I screamed at you before. I promise not to get angry.

WONDERBEE

(gains confidence)

Please, do not get closer to Ben any more.

NANCY

Why?

WONDERBEE

In 4 days, you will get a chance to enter the Study.

Nancy's heart breaks, and she crashes down onto her heels.

NANCY

I completely forgot about that.

WONDERBEE

(pleased with herself for not forgetting)
Naturally. A lot has been happening...

NANCY

Ben will have to leave? I don't want him to go.

WONDERBEE

(moves closer to look at Nancy's face)
Leaving the city puts you in danger. With him gone,
you will be safe. Is this not so?

Nancy is taken aback by Wonderbee's words. She puts her hand
over her heart, feeling it beat against her chest.

NANCY

(hiding her pain)
You are right. For now, let's go home.

She strokes Wonderbee's face. She looks around and Spot is not
yet back.

NANCY

(calling to Spot and teasing)
Spot! We are ditching you!

SPOT (O.S)

Coming!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, BEN'S ROOM - MORNING

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.

INSERT CUT: Ben maneuvers the bike towards a gorge covered in lush vegetation.

INSERT CUT: Ben skillfully ascends and surpasses the height of a waterfall.

INSERT CUT: Ben steers the bike towards unusually tall trees and he flies between their branches. They continue to soar higher, enjoying the view.

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.

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.

NANCY

I know this. It's a device fired from a small cannon that can shut down any machine.

BEN

We were shot down?

Before they can process this revelation, they hear the sound of breaking shrubs as something or someone is charging towards them. Ben takes Nancy's hand and they begin to flee in the opposite direction.

Nancy, surprisingly, outruns Ben.

FLASHBACK START:

EXT. WOODS - DAY (CHILDHOOD)

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.

FLASHBACK END:

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

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

NANCY

(breathlessly)

Stop, the traps!

BEN

(confused)

What traps?

NANCY

(gesturing, speaks Xeronian)

This entire ground.

Nancy's eyes glow momentarily, a sign that her psychic abilities have kicked in. 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 that have crystals for heads (that fire high-velocity energy bolts). The bloodrubi search for tracks. One bloodrubi beckons the others to circle the tree where Nancy is hiding. She realizes the danger and prepares to fight, unsheathing daggers from her boots. Ben, seeing her resolve, steps out before she can act.

BEN

(yelling)

Hey!

The bloodrubi 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

I'm unarmed. Please, what's this about?

The bloodrubi, 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 unexpected happens. One of the bloodrubi suddenly shouts to the one in front who then falls on his back and is hoisted up leg first by a strong rope. He has stepped into his own trap. He is now swinging like a pendulum from a tree and others have to cut him down. Then when the excitement grows down after some few curses they turn around for Ben but they do not see him anywhere.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Ben is attempting to flee but the bloodrubi pursue relentlessly. They start firing energy bolts against him that explode like fireworks against trees. Ben steps into a snare and he is hoisted off the ground.

BEN

No...!

As the swing threatens to knock him against a tree, Ben uses his hands to stop himself and clings onto the trunk.

BEN

(annoyed)

You have got to be kidding me!

The bloodrubi finally catch up. Ben looks at them from an upside-down view, saying nothing. They start talking amongst themselves in Xeronian.

BLOODRUBI CAPTAIN (37) (in Xeronian)

Bring him down.

Two bloodrubi cut the ropes, setting Ben down on the ground. They surround him with their spears pointed towards him, discouraging any resistance. The bloodrubi captain kneels before Ben, casually playing with a knife, cleaning his nails.

BLOODRUBI CAPTAIN (in Xeronian)

Who are you?

Ben remains silent, irritating the captain. The captain grabs Ben's collar and drags him closer.

BLOODRUBI CAPTAIN (in Xeronian)

Don't joke with us. Tell me who you are or I will have to get rough!

The captain looks into Ben's eyes, and then he realizes that he doesn't understand the Xeronian language. The captain signals to one of his men, **NGONI (30'S)**.

BLOODRUBI CAPTAIN (in Xeronian)

Ngoni, come.

Ngoni crouches beside his captain, acting as a translator.

NGONI

My captain wants to know who you are.

BEN

I am a student visiting from Tionun.

Ngoni translates Ben's response to the captain.

BLOODRUBI CAPTAIN (Xeronian, translated)

Your ride is not civilian issued. You are definitely not who you say you are. Why are you lying to us?

BEN

(appearing unfazed)

You shot me from out of the sky. Forgive me for not being forthcoming.

BLOODRUBI CAPTAIN (Xeronian, translated)

We thought you were someone else.

BEN

Given that I am not, will you let me go?

BLOODRUBI CAPTAIN (Xeronian, translated)

No, you are coming with us.

They force Ben to his feet and lead him away.

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?

Wonderbee pauses, seeing her look. Matthias approaches. Nancy can only look at them.

WONDERBEE

Where is Ben?

MATTHIAS

(also senses trouble)

Is everything alright, princess?

NANCY

(gravely)

Ben has been captured by bloodrubis!

WONDERBEE

(confusion, disbelief, anger)

...

NANCY

(raises her hand to explain)

We were shot down and they chased us but he... he sacrificed himself for me. They were after me.

(regretfully)

How could I be so stupid?

WONDERBEE

(forgiving)

Nancy, it's not your fault.

NANCY

Yes, it is and...

(flash of inspiration)

We must save him.

MATTHIAS

That's impossible.

NANCY

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

(hurries to Wonderbee)

You'll take me.

(gets on the dragon's back)

I'll brief you all when I get back. Now fly, Wonderbee!

Then the dragon goes airborne and heads towards her city.

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY - NIGHT

(TEXT: BLOODRUBI CITY)

The Bloodrubi city is a marvel, built in the walls of a massive gorge with brilliantly carved houses and numerous stone bridges connecting both sides of the steep rock. 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 avoid 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

(in an accent)

I said, 'who are you?'

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

Is that so...?

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 (CONT'D)

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.

One maid works on her back zipper. One is tying her hair and
putting pins in it. Then she is hurrying to the door and one is
handing her a hand fan. Then two maids accompany her out. Those
left behind can now breathe.

INT. PALACE, KING'S THRONE - CONTINUOUS

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 are in order, 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 bloodrubs!

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. Bloodrubs? 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 gets to 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.

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY, PRISON - MORNING

The sun is just coming up and activity is still relatively low. A group of female bloodrubis are arriving by flying bikes and flying canoes. They are wearing elite attire which is allowed a white stripe, and the male guards bow in their presence.

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: CAPITAL CITY, 2 MONTHS AGO)

Ben finds himself standing in a metropolitan district in ghost form. The streets are busy. Xeronians pass through him unawares.

Ben 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 CUT: A 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 and is made to kneel beside him. She begins to translate.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

My name is Tambudzai. What is your name?

BEN

Ben.

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

We will keep this simple. I will have you know that I have a special ability and can detect any lie you tell me. So, 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 raises her hand to stop him.

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)

Ben, why are you being cruel to my prisoner? Next time you tell a lie, he is losing a leg.

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

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

Why were you riding 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 nods)

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

TAMBUDZAI (Xeronian, translated)

Well, this is boring. You are not lying. What else?

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 into the natural. There is no defense.

TIANA

(annoyance)

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 this death and Ben is troubled by her weeping. Tambudzai says some words to her, a warning, 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)

Will the princess will come for you?

(Ben chooses silence, greatly annoying her)

TAMBUDZAI

(BARKS, in Xeronian)

Answer me!

It is meant to frighten but Tambudzai unleashes her wolf of vapor upon Ben. Ben falls backward.

(WORLD TIME SLOWS TO A CRAWL, EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE IS FROZEN)

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (O.S)

There is no need to be afraid. As long as you see my form sticking out from you, then use me just as you would in a dream, and then fight. Survive.

(WORLD TIME RESUMES NORMAL FLOW)

Ben falls backward and sees vapor appear over his right arm. It is ghost-like, just like his dream double. 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 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 and sends him spinning around, 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 by spinning her spear like a rotor blade. 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. Tiana ponders.

BEN

(approaching Tiana)

Impressive moves back there, Tiana.

TIANA

(dismissively)

These guards have no military training. They recruit anyone who can pass a running test. Good job taking out the mind invader, Earthling.

BEN

(chuckles)

Your nickname for me is really sticking, Ti.

TIANA

(placing her hand on the sealed door)

There are at least 20 more mind invaders behind this door. Think you can handle them for us?

BEN

(turning to see the bloodrubis)

Us...?

The bloodrubis, armed with spears, look at Ben as their secret weapon. Ben feels the weight of having them depend on him and he wants to say something but Tiana orders a surviving guard to be brought forward.

They need the passcode to open the big door. They begin torturing him. Ben looks at the big doors, thinking.

BEN

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 outside to the balcony and mounts Wonderbee.

WONDERBEE

Where are we going?

NANCY

Cave Yellowbee.

WONDERBEE

What?

NANCY

Let's go meet your mother. Now, fly girl.

WONDERBEE

Whatever you say.

Wonderbee goes airborne.

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, amazed, looks down and sees a gathering of dragons, flying, perched, or lying on the ground.

EXT. CAVE YELLOWBEE, ENTRANCE - DAY

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

NANCY

(asking no one in particular)

What is going on?

A dragon with silver scales, **SILVERBEE (15, 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.

NANCY

(hugging Silverbee)

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

(protests against her sister's teasing)

I am not boring.

NANCY

The city is indeed boring, but I am barely home.

SILVERBEE

I know. Found cool new things to do with your amulet?

NANCY

(holding her amulet in her hand and looking at it)

You mean besides telepathy? I have been practicing sapping magic from crystals.

SILVERBEE

Wicked.

NANCY

(with a look of delight)

I know, right?

SILVERBEE

(reminiscing to Wonderbee)

Before you hatched, the princess and I once went after a group of dragon egg thieves...

WONDERBEE

(interrupts)

The thieves were spread out in the mountains, so you had to borrow Nancy's magic? Yes! You told me like a thousand times already.

SILVERBEE

(continues anyway)

It was crazy. Her magic touched my mind, and suddenly I could track anyone in the world.

WONDERBEE

(complaining)

Sis...!

Laughter.

(PAN TO: CAVE)

Loud roaring and flashes of light from inside the cave.

(BACK TO)

NANCY

(curious)

What's with this gathering?

SILVERBEE

Someone has been asking the dragons to join in a revolt against the capital. This meeting will decide whether neutrality is still our code.

NANCY

Oh...

SILVERBEE

So, what brings you here?

NANCY

This might be a bad time.

WONDERBEE

Her boyfriend is in trouble.

NANCY

Wonderbee...! Ben, a friend, got kidnapped by bloodrubi yesterday.

SILVERBEE

(to Wonderbee, annoyed)

Boy? You were supposed to keep away the vultures.

WONDERBEE

We want to rescue this vulture.

Another crashing sound comes from inside the cave.

NANCY

My father is of no help since I had to withhold a lot of details. I am here to ask your mother for help.

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

(anxious)

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

SILVERBEE

I'll help.

NANCY

My plan involves storming the bloodrubi city.

SILVERBEE

Yes, I'll still help you.

NANCY

Don't you need your mother's permission? You could get in trouble.

SILVERBEE

(confident, looking at Wonderbee)

Don't worry, we can always blame it on her precious goody two-shoes here. She gets away with anything.

WONDERBEE

(defending herself)

I'm not... argh! For Ben, I'll take some heat.

Nancy hugs Silverbee and Wonderbee, grateful.

SILVERBEE

(teasingly)

I missed how you are such a hugger.

(checking)

Of course, we can't do this alone. I'll gather a small team and meet you in an hour or two. Where are we meeting?

NANCY

Mansion Matthias has been our base for a while now.

SILVERBEE

Perfect. Now, make yourselves scarce.

NANCY

We are counting on you, Silverbee.

(mounts Wonderbee)

SILVERBEE

This will be just like old times.

Nancy chuckles, her look is reminiscent. Wonderbee takes off.

INT. BLOODRUBI CITY, PRISON, LOWER FLOORS - DAY

Tiana gently places her hand on Ben's shoulder, waking him from his meditation.

TIANA

Time is up.

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

The group is waiting, anxious. An announcement comes out on SPEAKERS mounted on walls and it is in the voice of a woman. It's in Xeronian so Ben cannot understand but he sees everyone getting excited. 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. We need two to join us.

Tiana selects two amongst her peers, and they all disguise themselves as prison guards by putting on the attire of those they defeated earlier. Tiana puts on the attire of the mind invader who had interrogated Ben. They bind Ben's hands as if he's their prisoner.

BEN

Here's the passcode to the armory on the floor above us: *Sere Ina Piri Nhanhatu*. I have no idea what it means.

TIANA

We do. It's 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, I feel so weird saying this: *Poshi Nhatu Poshi Nhatu*.

TIANA

(punching in the code)

1313.

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 guards pull their hoods over their heads, hiding their faces. They proceed upstairs, leaving the others behind.

INT. PRISON PASSAGE - DAY

Tiana leads the way, followed closely by Ben and the 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 for the elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Tiana presses a button, and the elevator begins to ascend.

INT. PRISON, TOP FLOORS, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The elevator doors slide open, revealing Ben, Tiana, and their two companions. They step onto the floor where mind invaders are gathering in the hall ahead. Ben signals for them to wait as 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. Her excitement builds, and she swiftly selects the blades she needs, tucking them away inside her robe. The companions remove Ben's fetters, no longer needing their disguise. Tiana rejoins the group, now wielding a sword in each hand. Ben nods in approval, understanding that words are meaningless in this moment.

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 the two companions outside.

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 a podium.

Behind them, one door leads to the control room.

Tiana does not hesitate, but she launches a fierce attack, swinging her blades, catching the unsuspecting mind invaders off guard. She is lethal and she swiftly takes down four, causing confusion among the others. Tiana dives into their midst, felling all she comes across.

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 manifestation of mind invasion magic that would in turn manifest his.

Suddenly, a charging creature with massive hooves, made of vapor, 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. Ben's left hand begins to manifest vapor and this is what he was waiting for. 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 CUT: The owner of the blade receives a cut on her hand. The onlookers are astonished.

Tiana throws the spear at the charging illusory beast and impales it.

INSERT CUT: The mind invader controlling the beast falls backward immediately, 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 make attempts to escape, but,

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

Tiana looks at Ben and he only nods. This is his doing. Tiana draws another blade and Ben causes an illusory staircase to rise and access the platforms above.

Tiana jumps onto the staircase and 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, overcome by the weight of her fallen comrades whom she has just avenged.

Ben opens the doors for their two companions, who stand in stunned silence. He points towards a door ahead. They understand their mission: the control room. Ben and Tiana need a moment to rest. Tiana looks at Ben, tears still fresh on her face.

TIANA

We did it.

BEN

(nodding)

Believe it already.

Tiana takes Ben's hands in gratitude and joy, embracing him tightly.

TIANA

We did it.

BEN

(smiling)

Yes, we did.

Because of Ben, her comrades now have a fighting chance.

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 CUT: The alarm is heard throughout the entire prison.

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

Ben presses another button.

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

INSERT CUT: 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.

(PAN TO: BEN)

Ben, alarmed for Tiana's safety, realizes she is in danger.

INT. FACILITY, ELEVATOR - DAY

Ben rushes towards the closest elevator, determined to help Tiana. He fires his bolt spear at guards who stand in his way and presses the button to go to the floor below.

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

The 3 Liliths extend their death sphere as Ben makes it to the front and he sees 4 bloodrubis get vaporized before his eyes. Ben quickly raises an illusory wall made of thick illusory bricks and he manages to stop the death sphere from extending any further and thereby saving Tiana in a close shave. Tiana turns to see Ben behind her, struggling against the pressure of Lilith's magic. 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.

BEN

(struggling)

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

Tiana barks orders to the prisoners, instructing them to escape to the lower floors. They obey and begin to flee. Ben visualizes steel rods extending as a barricade, reaching into the rocky walls to find bracing. The Liliths stand before his vapory steel barricade, unable to get past it. They inspect it, and Ben is only ten paces away.

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.

BEN

I am just a passerby.

LEADING LILITH

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

BEN

Dream walking...?

LEADING LILITH

Though dream walkers are rare, we have met a few in our lifetime and none of them could do what you are doing. How long have you been practicing?

BEN

Two weeks...?

LEADING LILITH

You mock us.

BEN

I understand why you would think that way. You seem elderly. I like the elderly because they are reasonable. Could I call each of you, grandmother?

LEADING LILITH

Nonsense. I am Lilith.

LILITH 2

I too am Lilith.

LILITH 3

Even I am Lilith.

ALL

(in unison)

We are the 3 Liliths.

Tiana returns and stands next to Ben.

BEN

Shouldn't you be in retirement?

LEADING LILITH

You two made quick work of my children. You have destroyed my facility and created much work for us.

BEN

(pointing at Tiana beside her)

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

INSERT CUT: Bloodrubi prisoners standing a safe distance behind.

Tiana is surprised by Ben's words. She can only look at him.

LEADING LILITH

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

BEN

You use your power to bully the weak? You might be elderly but I cannot ignore this.

Ben makes the Liliths laugh.

LEADING LILITH

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, like an egg, 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 screams against him, unleashing a sonic wave-like 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 sits down, cradling Ben in her arms. Despite having known him for only a day, she feels a powerful connection to him, sensing a kindred spirit. The Liliths stand in their magic circuit, ready to release another death sphere. Vapor gathers around them as a sphere becomes visible.

Tiana closes her eyes and clutches Ben tightly when she sees the death sphere rush outward from the Liliths and head toward her. To her surprise, instead of experiencing excruciating pain and being vaporized, she opens her eyes to see a wall of vapor forming, halting the death sphere's advance.

She can't believe her eyes.

Glancing down at Ben, she notices faint vapor emanating from him. His magic is still active. 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.

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (O.S)

Well done. Now, allow me to take over.

BEN'S PERSPECTIVE START:

INT. OUT-OF-BODY/ASTRAL PLANE, PRISON, BARRICADE - CONTINUOUS

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. This is obviously a manipulation of forms.

The dragon heads exhale fire in all directions, creating an incineration field. Ben knows exactly what to do.

He glides through a 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.

BEN'S PERSPECTIVE END:

INT. PRISON, BARRICADE - CONTINUOUS

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. He shouts:

BLOODRUBI (in Xeronian)

Trouble!

EXT. PRISON, SKY - CONTINUOUS

Reinforcements, including a fleet of the bloodrubi army on flying bikes and FIVE DRAGONS, are approaching. The sky darkens as the bloodrubi army and their dragons draw near.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - DAY

Nancy stands outside , 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!

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS - CONTINUOUS

The dragons land, led by Silverbee, and they line up before Nancy. 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) .**

NANCY

(to the dragons)

Sharing a mind with 5 dragons is not something I do every day. So, I will start with Silverbee just so we can set everyone at ease.

Silverbee lowers her head, allowing Nancy to touch her forehead.

NANCY

(to Silverbee)

Close your eyes and imagine that your mind is a big cave sealed shut by a large rock. Now, imagine that rock rolling away.

(she rubs her amulet. For those who can see it, her eyes glow)

Thank you, Silverbee, for letting me in.

Silverbee opens her eyes. Nancy repeats the process with Wonderbee and the rest of the dragons, thanking each one in turn. Nancy mounts Wonderbee, ready to take flight. She looks down at Matthias who is staying behind with his team.

MATTHIAS

Good luck.

Nancy nods. She leads Wonderbee to the front of the pack.

NANCY

(to the dragons)

Let's fly, girls and boys.

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.

CUT

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 points 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 here.

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.

NANCY (in Xeronian)

Seeing our approach, naturally we are here for something.

(squats before him)

Can you help us? Please.

She doesn't even have to ask. The dragons looking at him like he is a piece of meat is enough motivation to spill everything.

CUT

INT. BLOODRUBI CITY, CAVE - MOMENTARILY

Nancy is standing a stone's throw away when Silverbee and Wonderbee approach her.

NANCY

It appears Chief Belsha wants to silence his own people.

SILVERBEE

We can use the confusion of the uprising to get the boy out quickly and they won't even come after us.

Nancy

We could do that, but... I don't like it that this chief is abusing his power.

SILVERBEE

Should we get involved?

NANCY

If Belsha remains in power then he will come after me again when he is done here. We are amending our mission. We are going after Belsha.

SILVERBEE

Oh, hell yeah. I like the new mission better.

WONDERBEE

You guys are too reckless. What about Ben?

NANCY

We get Belsha, we get Ben.

(BEAT)

Now, where do we find Belsha?

They turn their heads to look at the bloodrubi guard who they had questioned earlier.

CUT

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 is in awe just looking at it.

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 remaining 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. Dragons are resistant to mind invasion.

SILVERBEE

Are you okay?

NANCY

Yes, thank you, Silverbee.

The dragons unleash their fiery breath, overwhelming the bloodrubi soldiers who have no defense against it. As the bloodrubi soldiers go up in flames, in alarm they quickly 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 forward 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

(to the room)

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

The guards comply, knowing Silverbee's wrath. They rush out. Other dragons enter the hall, standing by Nancy as she maintains her magic and communicates with them, issuing orders.

NANCY

I am thirsty.

SILVERBEE

Of course. Maintaining a connection with all five of us must be tiring.

NANCY (via telepathy)

I can still keep going.

Silverbee notices the maids in the corner.

SILVERBEE

Bring refreshments for the princess. If you poison her, I will burn everyone in this city. She is the only one holding back my anger against your scheming!

The maids quickly obey, fearing Silverbee's threats.

CUT

INT. BELSHA'S LAIR - DAY

Nancy is eating the grapes brought for her from a tray. BLOODRUBI ELDERS are brought before her. She looks at them briefly.

NANCY (via telepathy)

These guys think I am just a little girl. Talk to them for me, Silverbee. Make sure they understand I have the upper hand.

SILVERBEE (via telepathy)

Not a problem, princess.

Silverbee turns to face the elders.

SILVERBEE

THE PRINCESS is aware of the treasonous attempts on her life by YOUR appointed chief, Belsha the many-handed. However, she has not informed her father, THE KING, of these crimes. She does not wish to bring DESTRUCTION upon this city. Instead, she desires to establish friendly ties with the bloodrubis. So, I ask you, is she WRONG in thinking that she can give this city a second chance? Will her show of MERCY be repaid by more assassins? The princess knows there is dissension among your ranks and not all wish to go to WAR with the capital. Will you let Belsha continue to lead you down this path of DOOM, or will you have him removed and accept the princess's offer of FRIENDSHIP?

The expressions on the elders' faces shift from horror to despair, and then to relief. They huddle together to discuss.

NANCY (via telepathy)

Nicely done, Silverbee.

SILVERBEE (via telepathy)

You are too soft. I would have demanded treasures and tribute.

NANCY (via telepathy)

We don't want to give them more reasons to hate me. This way, they will owe me.

The elders have made their decision. One elder steps forward.

ELDER 1

From this point forward, Belsha is our chief no more.

Belsha, still on his knees, looks up, alarmed and in disbelief.

ELDER 1

Guards, take him away. He will stand trial for endangering this city.

The guards drag Belsha away and Nancy cannot see more of him as the elders gather before her again and bow their heads.

ELDER 1

Princess, allow us to express our gratitude for your kindness. We offer you our support, and whenever you need us, we will come to your aid.

Nancy nods, evidently pleased.

NANCY (via telepathy)

See, Silverbee? This is much better.

SILVERBEE (via telepathy

(humbled)

I still continue to learn so much from you.

SILVERBEE

(to the Elders)

There is one more thing we came for.

CUT

EXT. BLOODRUBI CITY, PRISON - DAY

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.

(PRISONERS POV:)

Tiana, armed and wary, steps forward to meet Nancy, who approaches the barricade unarmed. The two talk indistinctly to the prisoners. Tiana looks back at the prisoners and raises her hand. There is nothing to fear.

CUT

NANCY

If the elders betray their words, words that declare your freedom, then I myself will rain fire upon this city with my dragons.

Tiana

(chuckles)

I understand now why he wants to protect you. You are a breath of fresh air.

NANCY

Whomever do you mean?

TIANA

The Earthling. He wanted to rush back to you, and you were already rushing here to him? How extraordinary.

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 and goes weak in the knees. She is falling over but Tiana is quick to catch her.

TIANA

Whoa!

(understanding and compassionate)

Do not worry. He is okay. He is just too spent.

NANCY

(looks at Tiana in gladness)
I suppose I have you to thank?

TIANA

On the contrary, he saved my life. He saved all of us.

NANCY

That sounds just like Ben.

Nancy gains her strength and hurries to him. Her dragons follow her and they make way for the beasts. Nancy kneels before Ben. She cradles his head.

The rebels throw down their weapons and begin to leave. Tiana gives them their space and wanders off to check on her group.

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 - CONTINUOUS

Tiana chases after the departing dragons. She has not yet said what she needed to say to Ben. She stops at the edge of a cliff, and she calls out desperately.

TIANA

Earthling...!

Unfortunately, her voice fails to reach the dragons. She can only watch them go.

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

Ben puts on a change of clothes.

INT. MANSION MATTHIAS, GRAND STAIRCASE - DUSK

As Ben descends the staircase, Nancy is waiting for him at the doors. She turns to look at him and then runs into his arms. 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

I find myself taking more and more after you. Come, I want you to meet some of my friends.

Nancy pulls Ben's hand, leading him outside.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS, GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Ben finds himself standing before a team of dragons.

BEN

(surprise, to himself)

And your friends are... more dragons?

(takes a moment to compose himself)

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. He is timid but he manages to pat most of them. Only Silverbee stays away. 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?

Laughter.

BEN

(leans towards Matthias, questioning)

There is a party?

NANCY

(overhearing the conversation, interrupts)

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

I will clarify for most of you. Ben... is not from this world. He has been with us 2 weeks. Tomorrow I open the portal that sends him home. This very night is his last with us.

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

SILVERBEE

(loudly, troubled)

He's leaving?

(Everyone shushes her)

NANCY

I'd like to thank all of you... for your support, and for your help in keeping Ben safe.

(ANGLE ON: MATTHIAS)

Matthias... thank you for opening your mansion to us. Your heart is as large as this beautiful building itself.

(Ben smiles and rubs Matthias's shoulders)

(ANGLE ON: WONDERBEE)

Wonderbee... you had Ben's back when I was not looking. Thank you. Your strictness is actually your love for us, shining brightly.

(Wonderbee bows slightly)

(ANGLE ON: SILVERBEE)

Silverbee... you assembled a brilliant team and came to our aid. We were right to count on you. Thank you.

SILVERBEE

Anytime, princess.

(ANGLE ON: BEN)

NANCY

And Ben... you were a delightful surprise. I am very glad that our paths crossed. Time... only if we had more time... I um...

(fights back tears)

Everyone feels her sadness. Ben too is sad.

NANCY

Forgive me. I will not ruin this. Everyone can say their farewells in peace. Let's eat, have fun, and enjoy the company.

They gather around Ben to embrace him.

DISSOLVE

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

DISSOLVE

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.

EXT. MANSION MATTHIAS, GROUNDS - LATER

After the show, Nancy has to go back to the palace. She holds onto Ben's hand tightly, not wanting to let go. They embrace but he does not release her. She looks up at him.

BEN

Did I ever tell you how beautiful you are?

(she nods but he tells her either way)

You are so... so very beautiful. When I look at you, I forget the world. I forget today, I forget tomorrow, but... I cherish the now.

Nancy puts her ear to Ben's chest, listening to his heartbeat and smiling happily.

NANCY

(softly)

Thank you. I'm glad you think of me that way.

WONDERBEE

(approaching)

It's getting late, Nancy.

BEN

(reluctant)

Go now.

Nancy looks around at the dragons and dogs, who all bow before her to bid her goodnight. Wonderbee takes Nancy on her back and they fly off into the night.

EXT. ONIS CITY, SKY - NIGHT

Wonderbee does not say anything during the rest of the trip.

EXT. NANCY'S BALCONY - NIGHT

Wonderbee sets Nancy down on her balcony.

WONDERBEE

Goodnight, princess.

NANCY

Wait, Wonderbee.

Wonderbee turns to face Nancy who is hesitating.

WONDERBEE

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

NANCY

(teary-eyed)

I love him.

Now she can release the tension inside her.

WONDERBEE

I know.

NANCY

(heartbroken)

He's leaving tomorrow, and I love him.

WONDERBEE

(consoling)

I know.

Nancy breaks down, tears streaming down her face. Wonderbee bends down to listen to her.

NANCY

I want him to stay.

WONDERBEE

I know that too.

NANCY

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

WONDERBEE

Are you sure you should be asking me? Because I have a couple of ideas... the first being... we tell him the portal is broken.

Nancy chuckles and Wonderbee is glad.

WONDERBEE

Or, we could start with the truth. There is no way that he is not in love with you.

NANCY

Do you think I intimidate him by the fact that I am the princess? That it could have been better if I had just kept my mouth shut about that? I see how the nobles act around me.

WONDERBEE

You have nothing to worry about. I doubt Ben even knows how lofty your station is. He sees us bowing to you and he just stands there, clueless. It frustrated me at first but I see now how it's a good thing.

NANCY

It's good?

WONDERBEE

Tomorrow, when you meet Ben, don't hold back. Be yourself and tell him how you feel.

NANCY

(smiling through tears)

Thank you, Wonderbee.

Wonderbee leaves, and Nancy watches her go.

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

Yes.

SILVERBEE

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 into 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

(**TEXT:** KINGDOM BORDER, MUNYATI VALLEY)

Silverbee is flying with Ben into a valley when they suddenly vanish. They reappear half a kilometer away. They have just been 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 takes a deep breath and 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

(BEAT)

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 (in astral form) is standing before his physical body now.

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 (V.O)

Rotonis... not Onis?

Ben's astral double levitates higher until he sees rows of TENTS that are in the thousands. 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 (PHYSICAL FORM)

(to Ben's astral double)

Who or what are you?!

A girl of about 12 years old (**LADY SU, 153-YEAR-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 and is holding a WOODEN STAFF whose tip is a carving of a hand whose purpose is to hold a CLEAR WHITE CRYSTAL.

BEN (ASTRAL FORM)

You can see me?

LADY SU

Are you a ghost or alive?

SILVERBEE (V.O)

Who are you talking to?

BEN (ASTRAL FORM)

(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, and vines made of light emerge from the ground and shoot towards Ben. They bind his astral body; they bind his legs and hands and prevent his escape. Even his ghosting ability does not work against them. 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. The vines pull 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. The body without the spirit is dead." I command your body - come be joined to your spirit!

She taps her staff on the ground again.

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 covers himself with his hands in defense. Silverbee roars out, her roar reverberating and shaking the whole camp and this 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. Wooden poles are tied together with rope and reinforced by nails. Guards patrol the area while soldiers' tents surround the prison, making escape nearly impossible.

Ben looks around, noticing the other PRISONERS, about 10 in total. None of them greet him or seem eager for conversation. The atmosphere inside the prison is tense, each man solely focused on himself.

Ben looks towards the dark skies, worry written all over his face. Was Nancy's kingdom about to engage in war? How about him leaving the planet? What will happen now?

Camera, focused on Ben, ascends from the small prison and goes higher and higher until the whole valley is in perspective.

CUT TO:

EXT. ONIS CITY, PALACE, NANCY'S BALCONY - NIGHT

Nancy is still looking at the sky. Tired, she turns in for the night, closing her windows.

Camera, focused on her shut windows, ascends higher and higher until the whole city is in perspective.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET XERONIS FROM SPACE - CONTINUOUS

The whole planet of Xeronis is in frame.

(**TEXT:** END OF PART ONE)

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

(**DARKNESS**)

BEN'S DREAM DOUBLE (V.O)

(laughs, amused and then stops; getting serious)
Little elf, whom did you say you've bound?

EXT. MUNYATI VALLEY, OUTSIDE BARRIER - NIGHT

(DARKNESS)

Heavy breathing. A dragon breathes a short burst of yellow flames. Then an orange-red flame. Then blue flames gather as Silverbee's face comes into the light.

SILVERBEE

(menacing)

Give him back, or burn!

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF PART ONE

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