

AGE OF SHADOWS

By

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"The Journey Begins"

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WGGB Registered
29.05.14

FADE IN:

EXT. THE DESERT OF KARTOKA - DAY

Bountiful and vast. Sand swallows human skulls.

ORION (V.O.)
They say that none survived the
Great War...

An ancient tower crumbles around the carcass of a mighty
slain dragon.

ORION (V.O.)
...they're wrong.

ORION (24, handsome, body shrouded in a desert garb) plucks
a glowing ORB from the ground and coldly studies it.

ORION (V.O.)
I survived.

He pockets the orb, pulls up his hood and turns away.

ORION (V.O.)
I'm all that's left.

A sandstorm approaches him.

ORION (V.O.)
The last of my kind. Nothing but a
memory...

Sand engulfs him.

ORION (V.O.)
...of a time ruled by Gods.

EXT. BEIRSWOOD, CLEARING - DAY

Glorious conflagrations of sunlight bounce off a shallow
stream that runs the length of the woodland.

A beautiful BUCK nuzzles in reed grass. It raises its head,
ears ping.

A HORNED DRAGON soars overhead. Trees quiver in its wake.

BRISBURN BLACKTHORN (26, handsome, hunter, equipped with an
arsenal of hunting weapons) holds a bow and tree-runs.

DOWNSTREAM

An OCELOT scampers through the water as --

MARALDA (24, beautiful, huntress, equipped with a similar weapon-set) nocks an arrow and aims at the ocelot.

The dragon glides overhead and unleashes a deafening ROAR.

She looks up, abandons the ocelot and pursues the beast.

EXT. BEIRSWOOD - DAY

Brisburn drops down from a tree, aims skyward. An arrow cuts past his ear. He turns.

Maralda nocks an arrow, passes him. He sprints after her.

BRISBURN
I saw it first.

MARALDA
Better move fast then.

Brisburn scrambles up a rock and leaps into a treetop. He runs above her.

MARALDA
Hundred gold says I bag it!

BRISBURN
You're on!

He leaps, swings off a branch into another tree.

Maralda darts down a hillside, scours for movement. She strings her bow, squints...

Brisburn launches across from branch-to-branch, swings up into a treetop.

BRISBURN
Too slow, Mara!

The dragon cuts down, its wing demolishes treetops en route to Brisburn. Brisburn's eyes go wide.

BRISBURN
NOT GOOD...

He hops down, lands a crumpled heap on the ground.

The dragon descends, flaps its wings, leaves and dirt hurl skyward as it touches down.

Maralda follows the sun, fires --

An arrow glides through the air, tears through the dragon's eye. The beast ROARS, breathes fire.

Maralda ducks behind a boulder, contemplates.

MARALDA

Not the best idea ever...

Flames hit the boulder. Rock melts. Maralda scurries away.

BRISBURN

Hey, lizard-wings!

Dragon snaps its gaze on Brisbane.

BRISBURN

You are one ugly-

DRAGON

Dawnbringer!

Dragon stalks over to the huntsman using its wings as feet.

BRISBURN

Talking dragon...

A PURSUER (20s, hooded and cloaked) drops from a tree onto the beast's back and rams daggers into its neck.

The dragon writhes, tries to take off. Pursuer throws out magical pulses, locking the wings to the ground.

Brisburn steps back in awe. Maralda arrives at his side.

Pursuer whips out -- SOULREND (skulls down its handle with ruby eyes) and plunges it through the dragon's skull.

Brisburn and Maralda exchange looks.

The dragon's throat lights up crimson. Pursuer looks up.

PURSUER

I'd run if I were you.

Pursuer disappears in a flash. The dragon's mouth opens, fire spits out.

Brisburn grabs Maralda and drags her down an embankment. They tumble, find level ground.

BOOM -- a wave of fire washes across the woodland and eviscerates bushes, trees and boils water. A frog GULPS.

Brisburn COUGHS, waves his hand through the air. Smoke billows throughout the forest.

BRISBURN

Whoa...

(to Maralda)

That was nuts.

MARALDA

You're telling me.

DRAGON SITE

Pursuer stands over the charred bones of the dragon. Smoke wafts from its carcass...

Brisburn and Maralda amble up the embankment. He helps her.

PURSUER

When I said *run*, I meant a long way from here.

BRISBURN

It's a free country.

Pursuer slowly chuckles.

PURSUER

Is that what they told you?

Maralda studies the dragon bones.

MARALDA

Where did it come from?

Maralda touches the horns, smiles.

BRISBURN

Nice work, by the way. But we had it cover-

Pursuer pins Brisburn to a tree, sticks Soulrend to his neck and leans in.

Maralda nocks an arrow, aims.

MARALDA

Back off!

Brisburn notices the Pursuer's RED EYES beneath the hood.

BRISBURN

Demon...

MARALDA

Spawn, I will drop you. Let him go
or I swear to Alderin-

Pursuer waves a hand. Maralda's bow flies out of her grip.

Pursuer clenches a fist. She GASPS for air, grabs her throat
and falls to a knee.

PURSUER

What did it say to you, Huntsman?

BRISBURN

Dawnbringer. It said *Dawnbringer*.

Pursuer releases Maralda from the curse. Sets Brisburn free
and turns away.

Maralda CLEARS her throat. Rubs her neck.

PURSUER

What do you know of *Dawnbringer*?

BRISBURN

Nothing.

Brisburn checks on Maralda. She waves him off.

Pursuer pulls down his hood --

PROMETHEUS (25, handsomeness tainted by scars and time, red
eyes and pale skin) acknowledges the two hunters.

PURSUER/PROMETHEUS

My name is Prometheus. I come from
Kartoka, due west of here. And I
ask for your forgiveness.

BRISBURN

What's with the red eyes?

PROMETHEUS

I'm half-demon.

Maralda scoops up her bow.

PROMETHEUS

But I'm no threat to you.

MARALDA
My throat disagrees with you.

PROMETHEUS
Apologies, my lady.

Maralda appreciates this.

BRISBURN
So, how did the dragon-
The moon passes over the sun, an eclipse...

BRISBURN
What happened to the sun?
Darkness descends upon the world.

PROMETHEUS
I must reach Elysium. Do either of
you know the way?

BRISBURN
Northwest of this point, follow the
river downstream to a congregation
of Asaran statues.
Prometheus heads northwest.

PROMETHEUS
Thank you for your time. Now run.

BRISBURN
What's at Elysium?

PROMETHEUS
None of your concern. Do not follow
me, Brisburn.

Prometheus disappears into the trees.

Brisburn looks to Maralda, who contemplates. Both smirk.

BRISBURN
What do you say to that?

MARALDA
It's a free country.

EXT. THE CAVE OF TIME - DAY

A caved in passage lurks beneath a godlike mountain.

CRACK. CRACK. The rocks move. CRACK. Rocks fall. CRASH. The passage opens.

Orion, bloodied, beaten and wielding a broken arm, stumbles out of the hole and drops to the ground.

His eyes and veins turn gold. Tiny atoms swirl around his arm, mend his bones and clean his wounds.

Orion clenches a fist with his busted arm, stands.

EXT. BEIRSWOOD - DAY

Orion pushes through the forest with heavy legs.

He drops by a stream, splashes water on his face. COUGHS. A shadow crawls along the ground, darkness descends.

Orion gazes up at the eclipse, angrily furrows his brows.

EXT. ELYSIUM - ECLIPSE

A congregation of ancient "Egyptian" like statues engraved to look like people stand erect in a circle.

Prometheus studies each statue as he approaches a wall. He pulls out an ORB, weighs it in hand.

Orion vaults down from above and tackles Prometheus down. The orb rolls away.

ORION

Did you think I'd allow you to open
the vault?!

PROMETHEUS

Orion, ever a thorn in my side.

Prometheus launches Orion into the air, kips up.

Prometheus punches him in the face, follows it up with a knee to the gut. Orion drops, viciously COUGHS blood.

Prometheus unsheathes Soulrend, twirls it in hand and circles Orion like a vulture.

PROMETHEUS

You should have stayed buried.

Orion raises a hand. Golden light shoots from his palm, hits Prometheus and knocks him into a statue, CRASH.

Brisburn and Maralda watch on from across the stream.

Prometheus parries magic bolts with Soulrend, advances. He shoots a fireball.

Orion throws up a water shield. Fire SIZZLES out. He runs at Prometheus. Prometheus disappears. Orion revolves, searches.

Prometheus appears, stabs. Orion traps the sword, elbows the man in the face and gains Soulrend.

The blade ignites in his hand. He stabs. Prometheus grabs the blade, a tug of war commences.

Maralda draws on the men, two arrows nocked.

Brisburn lifts the orb. Smoky trails of light swirl up his arm. He turns his head slightly.

Prometheus summons a demonic sword, swings. Orion blocks. The two lock eyes, ferocity present in both sets.

MARALDA

Stop!

They both glance at Maralda. Red eyes and gold eyes glow.

MARALDA

What is going on?!

PROMETHEUS

Shoot him. He's a threat to us all.

Orion elbows him in the face, stabs. Prometheus counters, swings. Orion parries. They circle.

Orion shoots an ice spike. Prometheus disappears. The spike glides toward Maralda, eyes wide. A fireball melts it.

Brisburn inspects the orb. Colors reflect in his eyes. His eyes roll back, white takes over.

FLASHES

- A) A demonic tower enveloped by a spiked wall.
- B) Prometheus lifts a crowned black mask from a podium, fits it on his head.
- C) A large city (ELDERVALE) burns behind a great stone wall.
- D) An ARMY of DEMONS led by Prometheus (in mask) marches across a vast, tattered expanse.
- E) A pair of CRYSTAL WHITE eyes open and scrunch.

ERENIUS (V.O.)
 (whispering and hoarse)
Dawnbringer!

BACK TO SCENE

Brisburn drops the orb, backs up a few feet and glares at his hands. He looks up.

Prometheus and Orion swing their swords and counter. Orion swings, misses. Prometheus slashes him across the cheek.

Prometheus kicks Soulrend from Orion's hand...

BRISBURN
 Mara...

She looks.

Brisburn nocks an arrow, pulls up his bow and locks...

BRISBURN
 ...him.

Prometheus drives his sword at Orion. Arrows hit him, two in the back, one in the chest.

Orion pulls Soulrend and decapitates Prometheus. The body crumples like paper into cinders, blows apart like leaves.

Brisburn lowers his bow, takes a breath.

Ashes float down on the wind. Slowly, the sun peaks out from behind the moon. Light spills onto the forest.

Orion scoops up the orb, sheathes Soulrend.

BRISBURN
I think you owe us an explanation.

ORION
I owe you nothing.

Orion disappears. Brisburn and Maralda look around. Brisburn sighs, shakes his head.

BRISBURN
You're welcome.

Brisburn approaches the wall, feels an oval groove.

BRISBURN
Question of the day: What's behind
door number one?

MARALDA
Don't think I wanna know, Brisburn.

Brisburn agrees with this.

BRISBURN
Well, as far as weird days go...

MARALDA
Yup.

BRISBURN
I could use a cold mead, hot meal
and a warm bed. You?

MARALDA
Lead the way.

They walk.

BRISBURN
Talking dragons, red-eyed demons
and ungrateful wizard-warriors.
What happened to a *normal* day?

EXT. ELDERVALE, STREETS - DAY

Cobblestone pavements interlink throughout a medieval city outfitted with Blacksmiths, Inns, Taverns and a Market in the shadow of a large ANCIENT PALACE.

Children chuckle and run the streets in a game of tag. Two IRONCLAD warriors chat by the HANGMAN'S NOOSE.

NORA (30s) sharpens a war-axe on a grindstone, sparks fly.

BRISBURN (O.S.)
Oh, it's good to be back.

Brisburn leads Maralda toward the KING'S ARMS, a tavern with a signpost outside and a few PATRONS having a drink.

BRISBURN
Never thought I'd miss the stench
of piss and puke.

MARALDA
Speak for yourself.

BRISBURN
Hey, you've seen the sort of crap
that's out there, Mara. I could do
with a few days of *normal*. I might
chop wood or forge iron daggers.

She SNICKERS, takes the lead.

BRISBURN
What?

MARALDA
My lips are sealed.

She gets the door.

BRISBURN
Whatever that means.
(beat)
Ladies first.

MARALDA
Hence why I'm holding the door open
for you.

Brisburn sarcastically laughs.

BRISBURN
Oh that's funny. Really.

INT. THE KING'S ARMS - DAY

MERRY men and women sit on benches around a fire in the middle of the room as a BARD plays his lute.

Brisburn takes a seat at the bar. Maralda wanders off.

MARALDA

Gotta go see a man about a horse.

BRISBURN

Don't hurt him.

She winks.

BRISBURN

Women...

FELICIA (20s, buxom) leans on the bar, assets displayed.

NOTE - Felicia has an *Irish* accent.

FELICIA

Brisburn Blackthorn, funny seeing
ye around after last time.

BRISBURN

Water under the bridge.

FELICIA

Tosh. He wants yer head, lad. Best
be gone 'fore he gets here 'cause
he's lookin' fer a fight.

BRISBURN

He knows where to find me, Felicia.
(beat)
Two pints of your finest.

He flicks her a couple of gold coins. She catches.

BRISBURN

And one for yourself.

FELICIA

Comin' right up.

Brisburn cases the joint.

Merry men and women dance, an old guy sits in the corner
talking to himself and --

A dwarf, BIN (43, grubby, bearded and tangled hair) stares
at him on the next stool.

Brisburn looks away, and back again. He double-takes.

BRISBURN

What are you looking at, dwarf?

BIN
A piss-poor excuse for a hunter.

BRISBURN
That a fact?

BIN
Bowstring's twisted and knotted.
Arrowheads are blunt. Even your
knife's rusty. Not got a lot going
for you, *Brisburn Blackthorn*.

BRISBURN
Says the three foot dwarf barely
able to sit on a bar stool.

Bin likes this, chuckles.

BRISBURN
How you doing, Bin?

BIN
Fine, lad. How goes the hunt?

BRISBURN
I met a dragon, got caught up in a
battle between a warrior-wizard and
a half-demon, killed the half demon
and witnessed a prophecy concerning
the end of the friggin' world.

Bin raises an eyebrow.

BRISBURN
Other than that, it's been quiet.
How about you?

BIN
I uh...went fishing.

BRISBURN
Oh, how was it?

BIN
One word, thousand teeth: Piranha.

Felicia returns with two tankards of frothy mead. Brisburn
raises his, takes a swig and sighs.

BRISBURN
Nothing better than a cold mead.

WALLY (O.S.)
AAAAAHHHHHH!!!!

Everyone turns as --

WALLY (20s, a weasel of a man) CRASHES through a table and spills onto the floor. He crawls.

Amused, Brisburn and Bin watch the situation unfold.

Maralda grabs Wally and throws him into a wall. He WINCES, cowers as she approaches.

WALLY
I...I...

Maralda grabs him by the nostrils and leads him away.

WALLY
(snorting)
Ow...ow...

Maralda throws him out the doors, dusts her hands off and looks at everyone.

MARALDA
He sold me a bad horse.

The Bard shrugs and plays his lute. Men and women dance and sing merrily.

Maralda takes a seat at the bar. Lifts her tankard.

BRISBURN
That was subtle.

INT. THE WELL OF ETERNITY - NIGHT

Waters ripple within pools enveloped by Ancient Midranian (hieroglyphic) peppered walls. In the center, a podium.

Orion sets the orb on its podium. It revolves and spits light around the spectrum.

PATHFINDER (O.S.)
Good to see you regained the key.

Orion looks over at --

WESIRT "PATHFINDER" ORNIK (70s, bearded, robes and wielding a staff for a walking stick) as he shakily approaches.

ORION
Master Ornik.

Orion respectfully bows his head.

Pathfinder appreciates the orb with heavy eyes filled with years of pain and suffering.

PATHFINDER
What of Draagon?

Orion looks away.

PATHFINDER
You need to vanquish him, Orion.

ORION
Each time I strike a deadly blow he finds a way to return.

PATHFINDER
Then you must find the source of his power and destroy it.

Pathfinder lays a hand on Orion's shoulder.

PATHFINDER
As long as he survives the balance is in constant danger.

Orion nods.

PATHFINDER
I witnessed something extraordinary today. The siblings that aided you at Elysium bore great courage. They saved your life.

ORION
I was in control of the situation.

PATHFINDER
Your pride will be your downfall. You must learn to accept others into your life as I accepted you.

Pathfinder runs his hand over the orb. An image appears in it: Brisburn and the dragon.

DRAGON (O.S.)
Dawnbringer!

This grabs Orion's attention.

ORION
That's not possible.

PATHFINDER
Improbable is the word you seek and
I can assure you, it is possible.

ORION
Dawnbringer's nothing but a myth.

PATHFINDER
Every myth is born from some form
of truth.

The orb showcases: Brisburn holding the orb itself. His eyes turn white.

Pathfinder CLACKS his staff on the ground. A portion of ancient writing on a wall lights up. Orion studies it.

PATHFINDER
*He who carries the light of dawn
can purge-*

ORION
-the darkness from this world.

Pathfinder graciously nods.

ORION
Seems I owe a man a debt.

Orion disappears. Pathfinder sighs, shakes his head.

PATHFINDER
Doors exist for a reason, Orion.

INT. THE KING'S ARMS, ROOM - NIGHT

Two bunks, one unit. Maralda reads a book on her bed.

Brisburn falls through the door drunk out of his mind. Bin laughs at his misfortune, helps the man up.

MARALDA
Fun night?

BRISBURN
Brilliant.

Bin helps Brisburn to a bed. Brisburn collapses into a pillow face first.

BIN
Right rowdy one he is. Why did you
leave prematurely, lass?

MARALDA
The idea of vomiting and falling
over doesn't appeal to me.

Bin climbs into a chair.

BIN
Mind if I kip in here?

MARALDA
Yes.

Bin gets comfy.

MARALDA
I do mind, Bin. Leave.

BIN
You wouldn't see me out on the
street would ya?

Maralda's eyes navigate to the door. Bin climbs down.

BIN
You got a cold heart.

MARALDA
Not the worst thing anyone's ever
said to me.

Bin mumbles under his breath as he SLAMS the door shut.
Brisburn jolts awake, drool down his chin.

BRISBURN
(groggily, incomprehensible)
Iwannafluffykitten!

He falls down, SNORES.

MARALDA
Men...

ORION (O.S.)
Rather insulting.

She hops out of bed and grabs a dagger. Orion sits in the
shadows in dim candlelight. He leans forward.

ORION
Huntress.

She hesitates.

ORION
You can lower the blade. I'm not
here to hurt you.

MARALDA
After what I saw earlier, I don't
believe you.

ORION
Relax.
(stands)
If I wanted to kill you I'd have
done it half an hour ago.

She turns her head.

MARALDA
You've been watching me?

ORION
More or less. But don't fret. I saw
nothing I don't see now.

He studies the room, acknowledges Brisburn.

MARALDA
Who are you and what do you want?

ORION
You saved my life at Elysium. If
not for you, the vault would've
been opened.

He extends a scroll, bound by string.

ORION
Consider this your reward. X marks
the spot.

She takes the scroll.

ORION
Until next time.

WHOOSH, he disappears. She lowers the dagger, contemplates.

PROMETHEUS (V.O.)
I failed you, my lord.

INT. THE TOWER OF DESOLATION, THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Tatty tapestries dangle from black goo-webbed walls. In the center, a throne of skulls.

Prometheus kneels, head bowed, in front of the empty throne.

PROMETHEUS
Of course...
(beat, listens)
I understand...
(beat, agrees)
Consider it done.

Throne doors open, three enter, from left-to-right --

GRAVEN (30s, demon, horned and in warrior gear), XENIA (25, a sultry goddess with curly black hair and a voluptuous physique) and ACACIUS (40s, completely armored and bulky).

Prometheus turns to them, surveys each one.

PROMETHEUS
Lord Erenius has spoken. We march
upon Eldervale. Ready the army.

Graven and Acacius head off. Xenia approaches.

XENIA
What troubles you, beloved?

She presses her hand to his chest. He remembers --

FLASHES

A) Prometheus (human) stands inside of a cell. Xenia on the outside, smiles and runs her hand up his chest.

B) Prometheus slays someone inside the throne room.

C) The crowned mask hits the floor...

BACK TO SCENE

Prometheus grabs her wrist, squeezes. She takes it.

PROMETHEUS
Know your place.

XENIA
It's beside you. As it has always
been and always shall be.

He walks off.

PROMETHEUS
Tell me again how I came to be.

XENIA
You overthrew King Atreus and took
control of the kingdom.

Prometheus coldly examines the crowned mask on a podium. She wraps her arms around his waist.

XENIA
You took up your sword and plunged
it through his chest. The king and
his empire...crumbled at your feet.

Prometheus bows his head.

XENIA
Is that not the story you wanted to
hear, my love?

PROMETHEUS
Why can I not remember, Xenia?

XENIA
When your power manifested, your
mind fractured. Pieces were lost.
It's the price we pay for the life
we lead.

He gazes into her eyes, brushes a strand of hair over her ear. She smiles. He walks away. Her joy fades.

PROMETHEUS
Prepare the Draggio.

XENIA
(downtrodden)
As you wish.

EXT. ELDERVALE, BLACKSMITHS - DAY

Nora grinds a sword, pedals the grindstone. Maralda sets her bow on the workbench.

NOTE - Nora is *Scottish*.

NORA

Maralda, good te see ye.

MARALDA

How's business?

NORA

Slow. Not much going on these days.
What do ye need?

MARALDA

The string's loose. Any chance you
can tighten it up a little? And I
need some sawtooth arrows.

NORA

Sawtooth?

MARALDA

They cut through easier.

Maralda sets a small coin bag on Nora's hand.

MARALDA

That should cover it.

Nora stops grinding, swings off the grindstone and inspects the bow.

NORA

This thing has seen better days.
How long ye had it?

MARALDA

A while, since I started hunting.

Nora runs the tip of her finger across the bow...

NORA

I'm curious as to where you found
this bow. Your brother wields its
twin, correct?

Maralda nods "yes".

NORA

The wood is very rare. Its texture
and its weight, light as a feather
yet stronger than stone.

Nora tests the bowstring's tension.

NORA

The string will never break.

Nora whips out an old wrench, tightens the string and hands
it to Maralda along with the coin bag.

MARALDA

Keep the coin.

NORA

Times may be slow and tax may be
high but I'm not desperate, Mara.

Maralda gratefully accepts.

NORA

Ye and your brother have done a lot
fer me, fer all of us. It's the
least I can do.

MARALDA

Thank you.

NORA

You're more than welcome, lass. Now
get on, I'll have the arrows te ye
in a wee while.

INT. THE KING'S ARMS, ROOM - DAY

Brisburn sits up looking terribly hungover. He GROANS, rubs
tired eyes and rubs his noggin.

BRISBURN

Oh...how much did I drink?

INT. THE KING'S ARMS, BATHROOM - DAY

A shell of water sits on a table by a stained mirror.

Brisburn walks in, trips over a lump and CRASHES hard onto
the floor. The lump moves, Bin scrunches up his face.

BIN
 You lug-nut, watch where you're
 going.

Brisburn grumbles something incoherent.

BIN
 Brisburn?

Brisburn raises a hand.

BIN
 What are you doing on the floor?

BRISBURN
 Gee, I wonder.

Brisburn pulls himself up, shambles to the shell and
 splashes water on his face.

BRISBURN
 How much did I drink last night?

BIN
 Three pints. Six shots of bourbon
 and two shots of rum off the belly
 button of Liz.

BRISBURN
 Who's Liz?

BIN
 The girl you puked on, lad.

Brisburn leans over the shell, both hands on the table. He
 looks at his rippling reflection, GROANS.

Bin fits on his hide boots, ties laces.

BIN
 It was rather funny. She did give
 you one helluva wallop.

BRISBURN
 Is that why I've got a headache?

BIN
 More than likely. Though I believe
 the liquor had a role to play too.

BRISBURN
 I feel like pummeled dirt...

Bin chuckles.

BRISBURN
 ...I'm gonna hurl.

Brisburn shoves past Bin and makes it to the toilet. He upchucks. Bin grimaces.

BIN
 Humans...can't hold your liquor
 worth a damn.

EXT. ELDERVALE, TRADING POST - DAY

Shoppers browse the marketplace just up the street. Folks barter with VENDORS over their wares.

WEST (20s, charming) chops wood at the side of a building.

MARALDA (O.S.)
 Still chopping wood, I see.

West faces Maralda, mops sweat from his brow.

WEST
 It pays the bills.

He sets a log on the block.

WEST
 You look good.

West cuts the wood, two sections break away. He sorts them as Maralda leans against the building.

MARALDA
 Remember that day you took me to
 the hilltop?

WEST
 What about it?

MARALDA
 You were going to say something but
 you avoided it. What was it?

WEST
 (shrugs)
 Can't remember. It was a long time
 ago, Maralda.

MARALDA
 I heard you were betrothed. How was
 the ceremony?

WEST
It was...not how I imagined it.

MARALDA
How so?

WEST
The bride was wrong.

He looks at her. She manages a slight smile.

WEST
Don't get me wrong, I love her but
I always wanted you.

MARALDA
Why marry her?

WEST
Because you're always off on a hunt
with your log-head of a brother. I
need stability. Your way of life is
dangerous. I can't live in fear of
you not returning.

She appreciates this.

CARA (20s, pretty) arrives, looks Maralda up/down and locks
onto West.

CARA
Who's she?

WEST
She's...
(considers)
...an old friend.

MARALDA
I just came to say *hi*.

Maralda extends her hand. Cara ignores the gesture.

CARA
Father wishes to speak with you,
West.

WEST
I'll finish up here and come over.

CARA
Now, West.

Cara trots off. Maralda grins, shakes her head.

MARALDA
Wow, she's a keeper.

WEST
Tell me about it.

He sets the axe down.

WEST
It was good seeing you.

He pecks her on the cheek, heads off.

MARALDA
Good luck with the whole *marriage*
thing.

WEST
Need all the luck I can get.

INT. THE WELL OF ETERNITY - DAY

Pathfinder stands at the podium, ancient eyes glare upon the glowing orb.

ORION (O.S.)
The message is delivered.

Orion steps across the walkway.

PATHFINDER
Events are moving, Orion. Draagon's
forces prepare in the west. And an
ancient evil stirs in the south.

Orion studies the orb.

ORION
Gazing into the orb for too long
invokes dire repercussions. Avert
your gaze, old man.

PATHFINDER
Less of the *old*, you. And you're
one to speak. You're older than I.

Orion helps Pathfinder to a stone bench. The old man sits,
grips his staff.

PATHFINDER
The gift of eternal youth...where
can I buy myself time?

He stifles a chuckles.

ORION

If I could trade places with you I would. But there is no such spell.

PATHFINDER

All this time and it still plagues your mind.

Orion turns away, sadness in his eyes.

PATHFINDER

You must let it go, Orion. Bottling up a thousand years worth of hatred will destroy you.

ORION

Maybe that's what I want. An end. For someone else to take the reins.

Orion's eyes descend to the floor.

ORION

I'm tired, Ornik. Lived too long.

Pathfinder sympathizes with this.

ORION

Witnessed endless suffering. Fought the Darkness. And to what end? The threat still exists and we're no closer to finding a way.

PATHFINDER

We have time. Limited as it may be.

The ORB releases a cloud of smoky light. They gaze at it.

An image appears in the cloud --

INT. THE TOWER OF DESOLATION, THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Prometheus, in battle gear, lifts the crowned mask from its podium and fits it on his head.

PATHFINDER (V.O.)

It has begun...

EXT. KARTOKA - NIGHT

A demonic tower enveloped by a spiked wall.

An ARMY of DEMONS march out of the gates. DRAGGO (winged, bat-like, faceless creatures) soar the skies and HISS.

PATHFINDER (V.O.)
...the beginning of the end.

EXT. ELDERVALE, STREETS - DAY

Children giggle and run through the streets. Adults smile.

PATHFINDER (V.O.)
Innocents shall pay with their
lives.

INT. THE KING'S ARMS, ROOM - DAY

Brisburn strings a bow over his back, buckles a quiver to his chest.

PATHFINDER (V.O.)
No one will be safe.

Brisburn consults Maralda's new map. They exchange looks.

PATHFINDER (V.O.)
None can evade its reach.

EXT. THE EXPANSE - NIGHT

Enveloped by godlike mountains and scarred by death. Ruins smolder along the coastline.

PATHFINDER (V.O.)
The last Great War of our time...

Prometheus (Draagon) leads his army across the tattered plains toward a distant sunrise...

PATHFINDER (V.O.)
...Alderin save us all.

INT. THE WELL OF ETERNITY - DAY

Pathfinder coughs into a closed fist. His eyes fade. Orion assists him to a door.

INT. THE WELL OF ETERNITY, STUDY - DAY

Bookshelves stacked high with thousands of tomes. A small fire CRACKLES in a brazier, seats circle it.

Orion gently sets Pathfinder in a seat, takes a knee beside him, feels his skin.

ORION

You're cold.

Orion clenches a fist, shoots a fireball into the fire. The flames grow hotter.

ORION

Stay with me, Ornik. I need you. I can't do this by myself.

Pathfinder smiles.

PATHFINDER

Don't mourn for me, son. I'm just an old man, I've had my life.

Orion empathizes with him, sadly smiles.

PATHFINDER

There is one thing I need of you.

ORION

Name it.

PATHFINDER

Guide them. The siblings. Show them the way. Promise me.

Orion bottles up his emotions, nods.

PATHFINDER

I am proud of you.

A tear trickles down Orion's cheek, he takes a breath.

PATHFINDER

Fight well...never give up...

Orion looks up. Pathfinder is dead. Orion wipes a tear away and respectfully closes the man's eyes.

EXT. BEIRSWOOD, RIVER - NIGHT

An ocean of stars reflect in the calm waters.

Orion pushes Pathfinder, inside of a boat, downstream. He summons fire in his hand, shoots --

Fiery circles make up a stairway to heaven.

Orion watches the boat take Pathfinder to the stars. Each fiery ring he passes through douses...

ORION

May you find the peace you were neglected here.

The boat bursts into a fiery phoenix, cinders rain down. After a moment, the phoenix disappears.

Orion turns away, calm water reflects him --

EXT. THE TUNDRA - NIGHT

Demons SPLASH through shallow streams that run the length of a vast populated expanse of wild animals.

Draggo descend on a HUNTER'S CAMPSITE. They breathe fire on the inhabitants, men and women SCREAM in agony.

In the short distance, Eldervale.

EXT. ELDERVALE, PERIMETER WATCHTOWER - NIGHT

Two GUARDS relax and play a hand of cards. One (ARCHER) keeps watch.

GUARD

Two o' clubs?

Guard 2 throws down a 2 of clubs.

GUARD 2

How do ye always manage te do that?

GUARD

It's a-

Archer's eyes go wide -- A Draggo flies in, scoops him up and soars away into the night.

The card Guards spring into immediate action.

GUARD 2
Sanity's name...

Guard grabs a horn (like a tusk) and blows into it.

GUARD
AMBUSH! AMB-

A Draggo bites his face, drags him over the edge.

GUARD
-AAHAHHHHH!!!!

EXT. ELDERVALE APPROACH - NIGHT

Prometheus summons a storm. Lightning whips crack around farmlands sending barnyard animals loopy. Thunder RUMBLES.

A BONE DRAGON lands. Prometheus mounts it, nods to Graven.

PROMETHEUS
Kill 'em all.

EXT. KARTOKA, TOWER BALCONY - NIGHT

Xenia grips the battlements and gazes out across the land. In the distance, a storm rages over Eldervale.

XENIA
Take what belongs to you, beloved.

EXT. ELDERVALE, STREETS - NIGHT

Guards and townsfolk rally together in defensive formation at the gate.

Acacius breaks through the gate wielding a HELLUVA MACE the size of a car bumper and the width of an exercise ball.

He swings it into the crowd. Guards and townsfolk drop like bowling pins.

Draggo descend from the skies breathing fire on anything that moves. People burn to a crisp instantaneously.

Nora chucks West a blade. A Draggo lands, HISSES. Nora lops off its head.

Cara flees with scared townsfolk. A demon attacks. A GIRL (5) falls to her butt, scoots back in abject terror.

The demon advances on her. Cara guards the girl. The demon slices her in-half. The girl SCREAMS.

EXT. ELDERVALE, ROOFTOPS - NIGHT

Archers take aim with their bows. Graven appears, stabs, disappears, reappears, stabs, rinses and repeats thrice.

An Archer turns on the spot. Graven decapitates him.

Prometheus soars overhead on dragon-back. The dragon's wing cuts through a chapel steeple, a bell descends --

EXT. ELDERVALE, STREETS - NIGHT

DING-DONG-CRASH, the bell hits the ground. Townsfolk recoil.

Demons flood the streets, a tsunami of them. They mutilate and desolate anything in their path.

Women and children flee in multiple directions.

A young BOY falls, a stampede of panic rushes toward him. He YELLS. A boot comes down.

Buildings burst into flame. Chunks of bricks crumble. Smoke billows across the city. Eldervale burns.

EXT. ELDERVALE, BLACKSMITHS - NIGHT

Nora and West fight back-to-back against a horde of ravenous demons. They cut, stab and slash their opponents.

An arrow pierces West's knee. He falls. Nora fends off the demons as best she can. A Drago flies at her.

Bin tackles the winged beast out of the air, rips one of its wings off and SNAPS its neck.

BIN

Grab him, we have to go!

NORA

We have to fight!

Bin ducks a demon's sword, elbows it in the balls and rams its head into a wall.

BIN

No time to argue, lass. Either flee
or die. No alternative.

EXT. ELDERVALE, SKYLINE - NIGHT

Prometheus' red eyes reflect the chaotic mess below. He
grabs at his head, GROANS in pain.

FLASHES

A) Someone in Prometheus' armor and mask rides a crimson
dragon over Kartoka.

B) Kartoka burns. Flames rise. Smoke billows.

C) A pair of black eyes stare.

EXT. ELDERVALE, SKYLINE - NIGHT

Prometheus collapses on the dragon, falls into a violent
downward spiral.

EXT. ELDERVALE, STREETS - DAY (PAST)

People walk about the streets smiling, chatting and laughing
with one another.

A leaf floats down on the wind, lands in Prometheus' hand.

Two CHILDREN run past him. Everything slows down. One of the
children, a BOY (6) stares directly at --

Prometheus, who clenches a fist around the leaf. Ashes
trickle from his hand.

BOY

Why?

INT. HOUSE, LOUNGE - NIGHT

A fire CRACKLES under a mantelpiece adorned with ornaments.

Prometheus sits in an armchair across from the Boy. The fire
and a small table between them.

PROMETHEUS
What is this, where am I?

A WOMAN (30s) sets cookies down on the table.

BOY
Cookie?

PROMETHEUS
I demand an answer.

WOMAN
Now Prometheus, manners.

Prometheus gazes up at the woman, who wears a warm smile.

PROMETHEUS
Who are you?

ERENIUS (V.O.)
(angry)
Nakaras!

EXT. ELDERVALE, STREETS - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Prometheus sits up. Ashes descend and bodies lie around him. He looks around.

PROMETHEUS
My lord...I...
(beat)
...it won't happen again.

The girl Cara saved cowers behind a barrel.

PROMETHEUS
(stares at the girl)
She's just a child, my l-

Thunder RUMBLES.

PROMETHEUS
(hesitantly)
Then so it shall be.

Prometheus rises, summons his demon sword and stalks the scared little girl. WHOOSH. Fireballs knock him back.

A GRIFFIN swoops down and its wing knocks Prometheus through a nearby window.

Demons descend upon the girl. She CRIES, covers her ears.

A blade slashes through a demon's neck. The monstrosity lingers a moment, its head falls off and body crumples.

Demons snap their gaze on --

Orion, Soulrend in one hand, magic in the other. He throws fireballs at the demons, slashes through them.

He thrusts a hand. A wind-blast knocks a demon into a wall.

Orion extends his hand to the girl.

ORION

Take my hand, Mila. Trust me.

She (Mila) takes his hand.

ORION

Devaruath!

The griffin lands, spits a demon head from its beak and bows with grace. Orion helps Mila aboard.

ORION

Inyara.

The griffin rises, flies away.

Acacius' mace nails Orion. He staggers back. Graven slashes him across the back. Five demons close on him. Drago HISS.

Orion punches the ground. A shock-wave ripples across the earth. Acacius topples. The ground splits open.

Prometheus explodes out of rubble, stalks forward.

Orion unsheathes Soulrend, its blade bursts into flame and he swings it. Fiery-death cuts through demons.

Graven throws a knife. Orion swats it out of the air. A sword erupts from Orion's chest, twists. He lifts.

Prometheus wields the blade, throws Orion at Graven. Graven spins with swords. Orion parries, disappears.

Acacius rises, pulls up his mace and GROWLS.

PROMETHEUS

Raze the city to its foundation.

(passes Graven)

Leave none alive.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Mila looks back at the inferno. Orion appears behind her. She YELPS.

ORION
You're safe now.

EXT. ELDERVALE, SEWER ACCESS - NIGHT

Nora and West help injured townsfolk downhill. Felicia helps Bin with bars on a sewer line. They pry them open.

BIN
Quickly now. Come on, don't lag.

Townsfolk enter the sewers one after the other.

A FAT MAN (40s) acknowledges the tiny gap, gulps.

FAT MAN
I won't fit.

Felicia makes it through.

Fat Man takes up two swords and bravely turns to the hill.

FAT MAN
I'll hold them off. Get the kids out of here.

Bin nods. Fat Man waddles up the hill.

WEST
That's everyone I could find. We should go back, see-

BIN
No time.

WEST
We can't leave them to die, dwarf. It's not our way.

Bin confronts West.

BIN
Sometimes you have to run. You can't save everyone, boy.

NORA

He's right, West. We need to go.

West shakes his head.

WEST

Sorry, I can't do that.

West heads uphill.

NORA

West!

BIN

Come on, lass. If this is his
choice let him make it.

Nora reluctantly enters the pipe. West nods to Bin.

BIN

Good luck, lad.

EXT. ELDERVALE BORDER - NIGHT

Brisburn and Maralda witness the inferno from afar. Brisburn
attempts, she grabs his arm.

MARALDA

It's too late.

BRISBURN

We have to try.

MARALDA

Orion wants-

BRISBURN

Damn Orion to the pits. Those are
our people!

(beat, shrugs her off)

Sit back if you will but I'm not
going to watch them burn when I can
do something about it.

Brisburn mounts a horse, snaps the reins. It takes off.

MARALDA

Brisburn...!

She considers, mounts a horse and steals after him.

MARALDA

Damn you.

EXT. ELDERVALE APPROACH - NIGHT

Crops burn and barnyard animals lie charred on the ground. A windmill's turbine snaps, falls.

FARMERS flee for their lives across the numerous fields. Draggo swoop down, firebomb and ravage them with claws.

EXT. ELDERVALE, SEWER PIPE - NIGHT

A barred pipe on the wall leads to a bog. Bin and Nora pry them open. Felicia fits through, drops down.

One-by-one, children hop out into her arms.

FELICIA

Over there, hide.

EXT. ELDERVALE, PALACE WALKWAY - NIGHT

A wooden walkway sits under a porch. GUARDS stand at the large doors with shields and swords.

A bony wing cuts through the porch, wood and stone fly.

Prometheus, flanked either side by Graven and Acacius, makes his way to the doors.

Guards defend. Fireballs hit them from all sides. All of them, but one, fall.

Prometheus grabs the last guard's throat, SNAPS his neck.

Acacius kicks the doors down.

Two ROYAL GUARDS (caped) rush out, swing. Graven parries, stabs and decapitates both in a single motion.

Prometheus enters the palace. Graven follows. Acacius guards the doors.

EXT. ELDERVALE, STREETS - NIGHT

West and Fat Man fend off demons and Draggo. West flings a barrel lid at an incoming Draggo, knocks it out the sky.

Demons corner a group of ORPHANS (ragged kids) in a corner.

WEST
Watch my back.

FAT MAN
Go!

West ducks a demon, slides between another one's legs and stabs his way to the orphans.

A demon swings a sword. West ducks, stabs him.

WEST
Come on, I know a way o-

Fat Man SCREAMS. West and the orphans look --

Demons grab his arms, rip them off. A Draggo lands on his chest, bites his face off. A demon disembowels him.

Orphans cry and SCREAM. Demons flank them.

WEST
Stay behind me.

A dozen demons approach. Six Draggo perch on rooftops around the group.

An orphan holds West's hand. West protects them, fearful.

An arrow pierces a demon's cheek. West looks up --

Maralda drops from a roof, lands on a demon, pulls out her dagger and cuts one of their throats.

Brisburn vaults off horseback, tackles a demon to ground.

Draggo descend on them. Maralda shoots arrows, left/right/up and around. Draggo fall, writhe on the ground.

Brisburn opens a door, sticks a demon's head between and slams it multiple times. A demon pulls him away.

INT. ELDERVALE PALACE - NIGHT

Two long banquet tables flank a small fire in a pit.

Graven brutalizes a royal guard, throws him into the flames. The guard SCREAMS.

Prometheus confronts the KING (50s, wise and scared), summons his sword.

PROMETHEUS

Where is it?

The King extends an amulet.

KING

Take it...I don't want it...just let me live.

Prometheus takes the amulet and turns away.

KING

Thank you...

Graven passes Prometheus, blood dripping from his sword. The King raises his hands in defense. Graven swings the sword --

EXT. ELDERVALE, STREETS - NIGHT

Brisburn and a demon CRASH through a workbench. Brisburn elbows it in the face, reaches for his bow.

Maralda kicks a demon in the balls, jams an arrow through its eye.

MARALDA

Get them to the gate, West. Now!

WEST

What about you?!

MARALDA

Just do it.

West corals the orphans to the gates as --

Maralda and Brisburn rekindle, check their arrows and double team an oncoming demon --

Maralda sweeps out its legs. Brisburn knocks it down. She snaps its neck with her legs. He helps her up.

BRISBURN

When we woke up this morning did
you think we'd be fighting demons?

MARALDA

It hadn't crossed my mind. Left.

Brisburn tosses a rock at a demon's face. Maralda strings
her bow.

BRISBURN

Top right.

She swings around, fires --

An arrow hits a Draggo on a rooftop, it CRASHES through a
nearby signpost.

BRISBURN

Duck!

She ducks. Brisburn shoots an arrow at a demon. It drops.

MARALDA

Jump!

He jumps. She shoots an arrow beneath him. It glides through
the air, nails a demon in the nose.

The bone dragon lands on a rooftop, stone quakes.

BRISBURN

Oh great. A bloody dragon.

They exchange looks.

BRISBURN

This one's mine.

The dragon snaps its jaws at them. They avoid. Brisburn runs
down the street, springboards off a cart onto the roof.

Maralda shoots an arrow -- it bounces off the dragon's head.

MARALDA

Oh come on!

EXT. ELDERVALE, ROOFTOPS - NIGHT

Brisburn hops over a gap, sprints at the dragon and kicks off a chimney into the air.

The dragon turns, ROARS. Brisburn lands on its back. It takes off.

BRISBURN

Uh-oh, oh...NOT GOOD! Again...

(beat)

Could use a little help here!

EXT. ELDERVALE, STREETS - NIGHT

Maralda throws a barrel lid, a demon catches it. She runs, leaps, feet onto the lid, the demon pushes her and --

EXT. ELDERVALE, SKYLINE - NIGHT

Maralda soars through the air, reaches out. Brisburn grabs her hand and pulls her aboard.

The dragon tries to shake them off, they hold on. Maralda spots its neck bone.

MARALDA

Pull it.

Brisburn grabs the bone, shakes his head.

BRISBURN

This is not a good idea!

MARALDA

Got a better one?

Brisburn pulls the bone. The dragon's form collapses, bones fall from the sky. It spirals down.

Brisburn and Maralda balance themselves, leap --

EXT. ELDERVALE, FRESH WATER POOL - NIGHT

-- splash down into the pool. Brisburn surfaces, spits water as Maralda rises from the depths.

Dragon bones descend all around them. The skull lands on the edge, glares at them.

Brisburn climbs out, lends her a hand.

BRISBURN
Went better than I expect-

An arrow erupts through his chest. He GASPS, another arrow hits his shoulder. He drops to a knee.

Maralda strings her bow. An arrow hits her in the gut. She drops to all fours.

Prometheus ascends a staircase, demon sword in hand.

PROMETHEUS
He who holds the light of dawn can
purge the Darkness from this world.

Prometheus takes a knee beside Brisburn.

PROMETHEUS
So much for hope where there is
none to be found.

Prometheus plunges his sword through Brisburn's back, and violently twists the blade. Brisburn MOANS.

Maralda jumps on Prometheus' back. He grabs her hair, throws her down the stairs.

She rolls to a stop, pushes up. Acacius stands on her back, forces her to eat cobblestone.

Prometheus lifts Brisburn's head. Blood drips from the huntsman's lips, his eyes glaze.

PROMETHEUS
You and I could have worked as one.
A shame really. You had potential
to be great.
(to Acacius)
Take her away.

Acacius lifts her, she fights him, throws hay-makers to no avail. The two vanish.

Graven, king's head in his hand, admires the scene with a twisted smirk.

PROMETHEUS
Embrace the cold, Huntsman. For
none shall mourn you.

BRISBURN
(painfully)
Go to Galier, you son of a bitch.

Prometheus SNAPS Brisburn's neck. The huntsman falls limp. Prometheus rises, acknowledges Graven.

PROMETHEUS

I leave the rest to you, Graven. Do what you must.

Prometheus disappears in a cloud of smoke.

Graven discards the king's head, pulls out a second sword and advances on Brisburn. Graven nudges him with his boot.

Reality shatters around him until blackness takes over.

EXT. THE VOID - NIGHT

King, alive, looks on from a short distance. Women, children and the like gather together around the void.

Graven takes a knee beside Brisburn, sets down his swords and holds a hand over him. Golden light beams from his palm.

The light strikes Brisburn's wounds. Blood flows back into holes. Wounds seal shut.

Brisburn GASPS for air, COUGHS. He rolls onto his back, notices Graven and scoots back.

BRISBURN

You get back...GET AWAY!

Graven backs up.

Brisburn studies the area. Women, children, the King and several ROYAL GUARDS stand around looking confused.

BRISBURN

(at Graven)

What is this place?

Reality fades through the darkness. Columns, walls, pools.

INT. THE WELL OF ETERNITY - NIGHT

Orion stands at the podium. Behind him, everyone from the void. He turns around.

ORION

Where is the word you seek.

Orion acknowledges Graven.

ORION
Thank you, old friend.

Graven fades away. Orion stands over Brisburn.

ORION
On your feet, Brisburn Blackthorn.
We have work to do.

BRISBURN
No, no -- what was that? Who-

ORION
Your questions will be answered in
due time, now rise.

Orion surveys the people.

ORION
Find sanctuary through the doors.
You will be safe there.

Brisburn scours the crowd.

BRISBURN
Where's my sister?

People make their way through the doors on the left.

Orion turns away. Brisburn grabs his shoulder.

BRISBURN
WHERE IS SHE?!

Orion grabs his hand, flips him over. Brisburn hits the
ground, GROWLS.

ORION
In due time, Huntsman.

INT. THE WELL OF ETERNITY, TRAINING ROOM - DAY

Sunlight breaks through cracks, rays spill into a room lined
with weapon racks and knight statues. A candlelit chandelier
dangles from the ceiling.

Orion takes point in the center. Brisburn looks around.

ORION
This is the Ark. Fabled warriors of
ancient legend trained within these
walls. They honed their skills and
(MORE)

ORION (cont'd)
became masters of the blade. You'll
do the same.

Orion grabs a sword from a rack, tosses it. Brisburn fumbles
the blade. Orion sighs.

ORION
This may take some time.

BRISBURN
I'm not used to being thrown sharp
objects, *master*.

Orion likes the attitude.

ORION
I'll start you with something easy.
Something even a man like you will
have no issue dispatching.

Orion CLAPS -- A tiny little goblin monster appears, about
the size of a sloth with big ears.

Brisburn laughs, points at the thing.

BRISBURN
A Gnome, really?

ORION
Gnomes are devilishly tricky little
buggers. Watch your back.

BRISBURN
My wha-

The Gnome dropkicks Brisburn into a beam face first. It
lands and chuckles, hand over its mouth.

BRISBURN
You sneaky little sod...

Brisburn charges and swings the sword manically. The Gnome
disappears, reappears on the chandelier and kicks Brisburn.

BRISBURN
BLASTED GNOME!

LATER

Brisburn runs. The Gnome trips him. He hits the ground and GROWLS in frustration.

Orion stands in the corner, arms folded.

ORION

Again.

MONTAGE OF EVENTS

A) Brisburn swings his sword. Gnome disappears. The sword buries itself in a post. He yanks at it, gives up.

B) Gnome slaps Brisburn again and again and again.

C) Brisburn stomps. Gnome rolls. Brisburn hobbles away.

D) Gnome kicks Brisburn in the balls. He YELPS, falls down.

E) Orion stands in the corner shaking his head.

ORION

Again.

F) Gnome and Brisburn duel. Brisburn gets the hand of it, laughs and ripostes.

BRISBURN

Surrender or die, Gnome.

Gnome turns its head sideways, kicks Brisburn in the nuts.

G) Brisburn holds ice to his crotch.

H) Orion nods off, regains consciousness, nods off again.

I) Gnome swings off the chandelier onto Brisburn's shoulders, clamps its slimy hands around his eyes. Brisburn walks into a wall, falls down.

BACK TO SCENE

Orion steps forward, admires the duel --

Brisburn and Gnome duke it out. Gnome swings. Brisburn parries, his sword flies away.

Orion CLAPS his hands. The Gnome disappears.

ORION

You lack conviction. How can you expect to save your sister from a highly guarded fortress if you can't even defeat a Gnome?

BRISBURN

I'll shoot them.

ORION

And when you run out of arrows?

Brisburn thinks on this.

ORION

The sword is not a weapon.
(unsheathes Soulrend)
It's part of you. Make it so. Allow the sword to move with you.

Orion swings the sword millimeters from Brisburn's face.

ORION

Control is vital to success. You cannot attain victory without focus -- focus, Brisburn. Free your mind. Think of nothing but the kill. Your target has a weakness, visualize and strike.

Orion twirls Soulrend effortlessly.

ORION

The key to success is visualization -- if you can see your target, you can find its weakness and deal a killing blow without them seeing it coming. Pull up your sword.

BRISBURN

I feel like a child.

Brisburn picks up his sword.

BRISBURN

Bring out the Gnome then.

ORION

Gnome? That was the first test. You failed. Now you have to learn the hard way.

BRISBURN

Alright, so bring whatever it is
out so I can kill it.

ORION

Confidence is good, but beware of
pride. It'll be your downfall.

Orion kicks out Brisburn's legs, the huntsman falls, THUD.

ORION

(turns away)

If you can't defend yourself, you
can't win. Always be prepared.

(beat)

Rule number one.

LATER

Brisburn and Orion duel. Orion knocks the sword from his
hand, butts him in the face with the hilt of Soulrend.

Brisburn staggers back, hand to his nose. He scowls.

ORION

Focus.

MOMENTS LATER

Orion knocks the sword from Brisburn's hand. Brisburn
fumbles, takes a punch to the jaw.

ORION

Rule number two: Always keep hold
of your weapon.

BRISBURN

I lost my-

Orion butts Brisburn in the face with Soulrend's hilt.

ORION

Rule number three: Never monologue
during combat.

MONTAGE OF EVENTS

A) Brisburn and Orion duel. Brisburn gains the upper hand. Orion sweeps out his legs.

B) Orion kicks off a wall, swings Soulrend -- Brisburn lifts his sword, Soulrend cuts through the blade, which SHATTERS.

C) Brisburn swings. Orion ducks. Brisburn follows with a swift punch. Orion grabs his fist, squeezes.

BRISBURN
Ow...ow...OW...
(falls to a knee)
OW! Stop!

Orion lets Brisburn go. Brisburn cradles his hand, winces.

BRISBURN
You broke my-

Orion punches Brisburn unconscious.

ORION
Rule number three, Brisburn.

BACK TO SCENE

Brisburn sweats like a race horse in the corner, hunched over a shell of water on a pedestal.

BRISBURN
This is too much.

Orion has not broken a sweat.

ORION
We're just getting warmed up.

Brisburn splashes water on his face, returns to the middle of the room, sword in hand.

ORION
Rule number four: In combat, there will be no time for water breaks. Conserve your energy.

They enter duel stance, go at one another. Brisburn puts a lot of effort in. Orion blocks and parries with ease.

They break. Circle one another. Brisburn goes again. Orion side steps, trips him, THUD.

Brisburn rolls onto his back. Orion sits Soulrend to his neck and shakes his head.

ORION

Rule number five: Know where you stand and watch your momentum.

Brisburn catches Orion's ankles and trips him up, THUD.

BRISBURN

Rule number three: Don't monologue.

They stand. Orion nods, a smirk on his face.

ORION

You're learning. Good.
(ready for more)
Again.

EXT. BEIRSWOOD - NIGHT

Townsfolk huddle around a makeshift campfire. Bin, Felicia and Nora watch the perimeter.

NORA

Where were the Elves? Why did they not come to our aid?

BIN

Never rely on Elves. They let you down more than they help.

NORA

Well, I'm sure if anyone knows what Elves are capable of, it's you.

BIN

What are you implying, lass?

NORA

You're a Dwarf.

Bin raises an eyebrow.

FELICIA

Just because he's a dwarf doesn't meant he's stereotypical, Nora.

BIN

Aye, and don't expect me to break into song and dance either.

(beat)

(MORE)

BIN (cont'd)
 And before you ask, I don't have an
 obsession with gold.

NORA
 I wasn't going to.

Bin likes this. Felicia finds them.

FELICIA
 The children need food. I'll go out
 on a hunt, see what I can find.

BIN
 Allow me. Keep the fire low.

Nora hands over a bow and quiver. Bin SNICKERS, lifts his
 axe and winks. He heads off.

Nora looks to Felicia, who shrugs.

NORA
 Men...

EXT. DESOLATED FARM - NIGHT

Draggo feast on disemboweled pigs. A small barn sits across
 from a ruined farmhouse.

INT. SMALL BARN - NIGHT

Orphans find comfort on stacks of hay around the place. West
 keeps watch at the door through a tiny crack.

He can see the Draggo outside. A girl, LIZZIE (10) tugs his
 sleeve. He acknowledges her.

LIZZIE
 I'm hungry, sir. Do you have any
 food to spare?

West fishes through his pockets, pulls out a squashed yet
 wrapped chocolate bar.

Other orphans notice the exchange. West realizes.

WEST
 It's not much. I'll try to find
 more, okay?

Lizzie accepts the chocolate bar, shares it with other
 orphans, but there's not enough to go around.

West bows his head, turns to the door and takes a breath.

WEST
(to the orphans)
Stay here and keep quiet. I'll be
back in a jiffy.

EXT. DESOLATED FARM - NIGHT

West emerges from the barn, slowly slides the door shut and studies the area.

Draggo fight over pig scraps. One breathes fire on another, which SCREECHES and HISSES as it boils on the ground.

West lifts a pitchfork, wields it like a sword.

WEST
(muttering)
Either die a hero or a fool...what
options are there?

Five Draggo stand between him and the farmhouse. All of them focus on the pig entrails.

West sneaks across the farm to a haystack.

A Draggo snaps its jaws at another, receives a HISS for its trouble. One flaps its wings, takes to the sky.

West plots a course to the farmhouse, an old tractor nearby. He goes for it.

Draggo munch on pig, one looks over, catches a glimpse, then goes back to its meal.

West, at the tractor, wrests his hand around the pitchfork and makes a break for the farmhouse.

Draggo lock onto him, HISS, their eyes turn red and they steal for the man flapping wings and running.

West throws the pitchfork, down goes one. He grabs a shovel, swings it into another one's face. Two lunge at him.

He ducks, swings the shovel. A Draggo takes a hit and crashes into the farmhouse wall.

The last pins him to the ground, SHRIEKS and snaps at him. He holds it off.

WEST

Ah, you disgusting pile of-

West reaches for the shovel, wraps a hand around the monster's neck. YELLS.

A sword erupts from its mouth. Blood drizzles onto West. The sword retracts, the Draggo collapses on top of him.

West shoves it off, greets -- GRAVEN.

WEST

Who are-

Graven reaches for West --

EXT. KARTOKA, TOWER BALCONY - NIGHT

Xenia watches down over a heavily worked mine at the foot of the palace. Her eyes gaze left...

XENIA

One thing I've never understood is why you stick around.

Graven stands beside her, an emotionless stare.

XENIA

If Prometheus finds out of your collaboration with Orion-

GRAVEN

Then see to it he remains deaf.

XENIA

Yet he is not blind.

GRAVEN

If it comes to it. I will have no quarrel with ending his existence.

They look out.

GRAVEN

When the time comes and the forces of Light and Darkness collide. You will be faced with a decision.

XENIA

I know what I have to do, Graven.

GRAVEN

For your sake, I hope so.

Graven vaults over the battlements, lands on an Undead Griffin and soars away.

Xenia watches him, bows her head.

INT. DUNGEON - NIGHT

Eight cells, seven empty. Rats scurry about the floor and pluck scraps as they go. Maralda paces in a cell.

The door SQUEAKS open. Prometheus enters, mask on.

MARALDA

(through gritted teeth)

You.

PROMETHEUS

Hello is commonly the phrase for opening a conversation, Maralda.

She wraps her hands around the bars, scowls.

MARALDA

Let me out of here.

Prometheus methodically approaches, surveys her gut.

PROMETHEUS

Your wound has healed remarkably quickly for a mortal. Then again it's to be expected...

MARALDA

If you don't let me out, I'm going to feed you your balls!!!

Prometheus chuckles a bit.

PROMETHEUS

You're in no position to make idle threats, Huntress. Nothing but a rat in a cage, there to be --

Prometheus STOMPS on a rat, SQUELCH.

PROMETHEUS

-- tamed. So to speak.

MARALDA

When my brother gets here he's going to rip your head off.

PROMETHEUS

I highly doubt that considering he's dead.

MARALDA

That's a lie.

Prometheus summons his sword. Fresh blood on the blade drips onto the floor.

PROMETHEUS

Not two days ago this sword plunged through his beating heart.

The sword vanishes, he grabs Maralda's throat, squeezes and brings her close to his face, only the bars part them.

PROMETHEUS

And these hands, as they are now, wrapped around his scrawny neck and snapped it like a twig.

He shoves her back into the wall.

PROMETHEUS

That, my dear, is the truth.

MARALDA

I swear to Alderin I will kill you. Do you hear me, you bastard?!

He turns away, heads out. Closes the door behind him.

Maralda's anger fades into sadness, she drops, tears flow down her face and she SCREAMS angrily.

INT. THE WELL OF ETERNITY, TRAINING ROOM - DAY

Brisburn battles Orion in frantic combat. Swords clang and parry one another, steel grinds.

Brisburn knocks Soulrend from Orion's hand, follows it up with a punch. Orion grabs his hand, flips him.

Brisburn lands on his feet, sweeps out Orion's legs and sets the sword to his throat.

Orion, on the ground, huffs and puffs, out of breath.

BRISBURN
Do you yield?

ORION
Rule number n-

Brisburn turns, deflects an air controlled Soulrend, which swings, slashes and moves on its own. Soulrend flies at him. Brisburn ducks. Soulrend finds Orion's hand. He sheathes it.

ORION
You have a hungry mind. Eager to learn. Eager to conquer the obstacles that stand in your path.

Orion claps him on the shoulder.

ORION
Many have passed through these halls but none have attained the levels of greatness you have in such a short time.

BRISBURN
I'll take that as a compliment.

ORION
Take it as you will.

Orion passes him.

ORION
Follow me, rack your sword, you won't need it anymore.

INT. HALLS OF THE VIGILANT - DAY

Suits of armor adorn statues along a narrow corridor that leads to a distant iron door engraved in ancient scripture.

Orion walks with Brisburn to the end. Brisburn admires the armors along the way.

ORION
Questions?

BRISBURN
Who did they belong to?

ORION

The Twelve Swordsmen of Alderin.
Each armor set represents one of
them. Galandis...

Orion motions to a golden armored statue.

ORION

Aryana.

A female's suit of armor, light, with red accents and a
black overtone.

ORION

Cornusai.

A Japanese-like armor set with ancient symbols on each
breast plate and a helmet with a red tether.

ORION

Koran.

Assassin like robes with a cape and cowl, equipped with a
belt that boasts throwing knives.

ORION

Each of them bore specific skills
that allowed them an advantage over
their foes.

BRISBURN

Such as?

ORION

Notice the extra weapons. Some bore
deadly accuracy with knives. Others
could wield magic, such as Neyrein.

A hooded armor-set with two magical gauntlets that sparkle.

ORION

Some could warp time and space. And
some, like you, were Hunters.

Orion stops at the last armor-set closest to the door.
Brisburn inspects it.

Hunter's gear: Hide armor, very light, steel belt and buckle
with pouches, knives along a bandoleer and an ancient steel
bow engraved with symbols strung over its back.

BRISBURN

Bakka...

ORION

Surprised?

BRISBURN

Not really. I mean, yeah, a little. I thought he was great. My father used to read the *Travels of Bakka* to me every night before bed. It was my favorite book. A part of me always knew he existed.

ORION

Well, he did write the novel.

BRISBURN

Really?

ORION

Not many 76-year-old humans are capable of performing half the feats he did in his youth. Writing a tale of his adventures granted him a well-earned retirement.

BRISBURN

My boyhood idol is a fraudulent. Good to know.

They walk. Orion fits a silver key with a rusty handle into a lock, turns, CRACK, CLANG, THUD.

BRISBURN

What's behind the door?

Orion opens the doors -- sunlight spills through, Brisburn shields his eyes.

ORION

Home.

EXT. THE SANCTUARY - DAY

An oasis, ancient stone buildings remain well-kept, rivers drop into waterfalls that cascade down glistening rocks.

Orion and Brisburn step to the battlements that overlook the lost paradise.

BRISBURN
Sanity's name...

Children play on grass in front of fountains and pools.

Hot springs off in the distance make for great hot tubs
 where men and women bathe.

Brisburn turns to Orion.

BRISBURN
 What is this place?

ORION
 It has many names, but the people
 who come here call it *Sanctuary*.
 (beat)
 The last place in all of Midras
 untouched by the Darkness.
 (beat)
 My home...

ALISHA (25, gorgeous, with pale yellow eyes and long flowing
 brown hair) makes her way toward them from a staircase.

Brisburn notices her, steps back...

BRISBURN
 Orion...

Orion and Alisha meet eyes. She warmly smiles.

ORION
 Fret not, Brisburn. She's harmless.

BRISBURN
 She's a Vampire. How is she-

ALISHA
 Not bursting into ashes?
 (beat)
 Or glimmering in the sunlight like
 a sparkly diamond?

Brisburn furrows his brows.

BRISBURN
Sparkly Vampires? How is that...

ORION
 Do not concern yourself with it. It
 baffles even me.

Orion kisses Alisha's hand.

ALISHA
So, he's the one is he?

ORION
In the flesh. Brisburn, this is
Alisha, an old friend of mine. She
will take you to Dawnbringer.

Brisburn stands still.

ALISHA
Do not concern yourself, Huntsman.
I've already eaten today.

BRISBURN
That makes me feel much better.

ALISHA
(to Orion)
He's rather sarcastic.
(beat, smiles)
I like him.

Orion spots Graven off in the shadows.

ORION
I'm sure you'll take good care of
him, Alisha. If you'll excuse me I
have other matters to attend to.

Orion walks away. Graven joins him.

BRISBURN
I really don't trust that demon.

ALISHA
Why?

BRISBURN
Because he's a *demon*.

She leads him on.

ALISHA
He's been around much longer than
you have, Brisburn. We trust him.

Down the steps they go.

BRISBURN
So, you're a Vamp then?

ALISHA

Quick to change the subject, I see.

BRISBURN

Never been fond of overly long discussions. Met a Goblin once that never shut up. I like to keep things nice and short.

ALISHA

Interesting...

EXT. THE SANCTUARY, BRIDGE - DAY

Alisha and Brisburn cross a really long bridge. A river flows beneath it.

BRISBURN

How did it start?

ALISHA

How did *what* start, Huntsman?

BRISBURN

You're Vampire-ism. When were you -- assimilated?

ALISHA

That's a rather large word. Been reading the dictionary?

He flashes a smile.

ALISHA

A band of Raiders ambushed my home village, burnt the men alive, took the women and children to a small camp just north in the shadow of Mount Farthare.

(beat)

They impregnated the women. Set the kids to slave labor in the mines. Then one night, something attacked the camp, killed the Raiders and during this, turned me.

BRISBURN

Vampires?

ALISHA

Yes. Led by Vladran the Hunter. You may have heard of him.

BRISBURN
The name sounds familiar...
(beat)
So he turned you?

ALISHA
I asked him to.

BRISBURN
You volunteered yourself?

ALISHA
I did it for retribution. The
Raider leader fled before the
Vampires arrived, he...he...
(emotional)
...raped my sister. She was seven.

Brisburn takes this in.

ALISHA
Once he was finished with her, he
slit her throat and tossed her in
the river.

She looks over at him.

ALISHA
I ripped his throat out and fed him
to zombies. A death deserved.

BRISBURN
What was her name?

ALISHA
Cheyenne. Her name was Cheyenne.

BRISBURN
Beautiful.

She offers him a warm smile.

ALISHA
She was...

BRISBURN
I take it after you gained revenge
you went to Vladran?

ALISHA
Orion found me. Brought me here. In
many ways, he saved me. He saved us
all, including you.

BRISBURN

Hey, I'm perfectly capable on my own, thank you very much. I made it twenty-six years by myself.

She looks at him, "really".

BRISBURN

Okay, fine, I had Maralda, but we looked out for each other. And I survived two years by myself before she arrived, so HA.

Alisha giggles. He smiles.

BRISBURN

This is a really long bridge...

INT. THE WELL OF ETERNITY - DAY

Orion and Graven stand opposite sides of the orb podium. A vision replays over-and-over in the orb's reflection:

IMAGE: Brisburn rides on horseback directly at MYRWARRNA (red-scaled, one-horn cracked GIANT dragon with one eye).

Orion ponders on a thought.

ORION

I thought Myrwarrna was destroyed when Prometheus ascended?

GRAVEN

As did I, but the beast lives.

Orion consults the prophecy wall.

ORION

If this mirage is true, then the Prophecy is false.

Both admire the prophecy wall. A passage glows, second paragraph from the top.

Graven and Orion exchange looks. Orion returns to the orb, presses a hand to it...

EXT. BEIRSWOOD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Dragon snaps its gaze on Brisburn.

DRAGON
Dawnbringer!

EXT. THE SANCTUARY, COURTYARD - DAY (PRESENT)

An ancient temple casts a great shadow over a stone encapsulated by a magical barrier that contains --

DAWNBRINGER, a golden sword with a brightly lit gemstone in its hollow handle, the blade gleams.

Alisha motions to Dawnbringer. Brisburn takes a moment. Many VILLAGERS gather around and pay attention.

ALISHA
All you have to do is reach in and take it out.

BRISBURN
This reminds me of an old legend I read about as a kid.

He remembers.

BRISBURN
A young boy cast from rags ventured into the grand forest and plucked a magical sword from a stone...
(beat, smiles)
...and he became King.

ALISHA
Then write your own legend. Take what belongs to you, Dawnbringer.

Brisburn steps to the magical barrier. Tiny jolts of bright lightning spark from its shell.

People gather, watch with hopeful expressions.

Brisburn grins, sticks his hand in the barrier -- BZZ -- a jolt sends him back into the dirt.

Alisha looks on, shocked and confused.

Brisburn sits up, looks at his palm. Mangled and burnt flesh greets his eyes. He shakes his head and goes for it.

He reaches in, another BZZ sends him back a few feet...

BRISBURN
What is this?! Why can't I-

ORION (O.S.)
Because you're not the one.

He looks over at Orion.

BRISBURN
What are you talking about? You
said I was Dawnbringer, why can I
not lift it?

ORION
When the dragon spoke, it spoke to
another...
(beat)
...Maralda. You cannot take the
sword because it's not meant for
you, Brisburn. It belongs to her.

Brisburn looks around, spots Graven.

BRISBURN
This is his doing.

ORION
Graven had nothing to do with this.
In fact, he put me onto something.

BRISBURN
Of course he did, he's a *demon*,
Orion. You can't trust him.

Graven takes this.

ORION
He showed me something. Brisburn,
what do you know of Myrwarrna?

BRISBURN
The *Demon Dragon*? It's dead. Why?

Orion clenches a fist, thrust it skyward -- a visual appears
in the air -- Brisburn rides at Myrwarrna.

Brisburn admires the mirage wide-eyed, shakes his head.

BRISBURN
Is that...me?

ORION
Dawnbringer never fights Myrwarrna.

BRISBURN
I'm gonna die...

Orion smirks.

ORION
Brisburn, there's more to this than you believe. More than I understand myself. Myrwarrna was destroyed yet she lives. This means something.

BRISBURN
Yeah, it means *I'm going to die*.

Brisburn rubs his brow, sighs.

BRISBURN
So, where's my sister?

ORION
Where Myrwarrna lurks...
(beat)
...Valyr.

Brisburn laughs...stops...

BRISBURN
I thought you said Valyr. Where all the exploding volcanoes and streams of boiling lava are...you know, the one place in Midras that you never, ever, ever, EVER go no matter what.

Orion just looks at him.

BRISBURN
Valyr?

Orion nods "yes".

BRISBURN
Oh...great! Brilliant!

Orion consults Graven at the side as Brisburn shakes his head and runs hands through his hair. Alisha finds him.

ALISHA
Nervous?

BRISBURN

Not at all. I either get eaten or roasted by a dragon, or fall into a river of lava and boil to death. So no, I'm not nervous.

Brisburn looks up at the mirage.

BRISBURN

I hate *Prophecies*. Nothing good ever comes of them.

ORION

Return to Kartoka. You know what you have to do.

GRAVEN

Without question, my friend.

The undead griffin lands, startles a few NEW people, such as West and Lizzie. Graven mounts, flies away.

ORION

Brisburn, follow me.

BRISBURN

Where are we going?

ORION

Don't ask stupid questions. Rule number ten.

Brisburn rolls his eyes as they pass West.

WEST

Hey, what about us?

ORION

Rule number ten.

Alisha finds West.

ALISHA

You'll be safe here.

WEST

I overheard them speak of Maralda. I want to help.

ALISHA

You can help by staying here and helping me with the children, West. They will bring her back.

West watches Orion and Brisburn sink into the distance.

WEST
They'd better.

INT. THE WELL OF ETERNITY, ARMORY - NIGHT

Armor sits on mannequins, swords hang from racks, as do many other weapons: axes, war-hammers, great-swords and bows.

Orion clips on an iron bracer with a deadly "gun" mechanism (trigger and barrel) onto his wrist.

ORION
Choose your weapons wisely. Facing
a dragon is no easy task.

Brisburn sheathes a sword, a dagger and fits on a light chest-piece of armor. Clips the straps, takes a breath.

Orion sheathes Soulrend, pulls up a crossbow, grabs a pouch of bolts.

Brisburn stares at an ebony bow on a rack, sawtooth arrows in a leather quiver beside it. He lifts them.

ORION
Remember everything I taught you.
Move fast, free your mind and find
your target's weakness. Myrwarrna
is strong, her skin impenetrable.
You will need to get close.

BRISBURN
I take it that involves me riding
straight at her?

ORION
That would be the plan. Watch for
her jaws and avoid her fire.

BRISBURN
Hey, I might be new to this *saving
the world* nonsense but I'm not an
idiot, Orion.

ORION
Guess we'll find out.
(beat)
First you need transport. Where's
your horse?

BRISBURN
 (deadpan)
 It died.

EXT. THE SANCTUARY, STABLES - NIGHT

Orion mounts his griffin as Brisburn mounts a black stallion outfitted in armor.

ORION
 Stay close to me at all times and
 keep your hands on the reins. You
 don't want to fall off.

BRISBURN
 I know how to ride a horse.

ORION
 (sly smirk)
 Kayla's no horse.

Orion snaps the reins, Devaruath takes off. Brisburn snaps his reins, KAYLA sprouts wings and soars after the griffin.

BRISBURN
 Whoa...WHOA!

EXT. BEIRSWOOD - NIGHT

Devaruath and Kayla whisk Orion and Brisburn into the night. Kayla barrel-rolls uncontrollably.

BRISBURN
 AAAAAAHHHHHAAAAAAA!!!!!!

ORION
 Kayla, calm!

Kayla levels out. Brisburn sighs "phew", tightly grabs the reins and notices Orion's smirk.

BRISBURN
 Lemme guess, there's a rule to this
 too, right?

ORION
 No, it's just rather funny.

INT. DUNGEON - NIGHT

Maralda sits back against the wall with her legs crossed and an arrowhead in hand. She scratches the floor with it.

WHISPERING gains her attention. She stands, looks around.

The WHISPERS grow, incomprehensible, a thousand voices speak at once. Maralda grabs the bars.

MARALDA

Hello?

She GASPS, steps back in abject shock...

A ball of light hovers in the center of the keep. Rays of sparkly light emanate from it, along with a strange HUM.

MARALDA

What...what are you...?

The light expands to form a female body --

ABIGAIL (30s, ragged yet beautiful, butterfly clip in her long brown hair) steps from the light with a warm smile.

Maralda winces, tears build in her eyes.

MARALDA

Mother?

ABIGAIL

Maralda...

Abigail extends her hand. The cell door unlocks, opens.

ABIGAIL

...go now. You must hurry.

Abigail fades away. Maralda exits the cell, gazes...

MARALDA

Mom?

INT. THE TOWER OF DESOLATION, THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Xenia's eyes are crystal white, in front of her, a tear in reality -- Maralda steps out of the cell. The tear vanishes.

Graven stands close by, catches Xenia as she collapses into unconsciousness. He sets her down at a wall.

PROMETHEUS (O.S.)
 You betrayed me...

Graven turns -- he hits the wall, stuck against stone. He fights against a spell.

Prometheus steps into the light, red orbs flow from beneath the eye slots in his mask.

PROMETHEUS
 I trusted you.

Graven breaks free, whips out his swords. Prometheus summons his own. They clash blades.

PROMETHEUS
 Why?!

They break away, circle.

Prometheus summons a second sword. Attacks. Graven parries, ducks and slashes. Prometheus blocks. They lock eyes.

Prometheus' second sword vanishes. He thrusts his empty hand and Graven CRASHES into a wall, stone spits, he falls.

Prometheus leaps through the air, plunges the sword. Graven rolls out the way, kips up, swings. Prometheus parries.

They duel toward the balcony trading lightning fast blows.

EXT. KARTOKA, TOWER BALCONY - NIGHT

Graven and Prometheus exchange lethal attacks, each one is countered with precision.

Prometheus kicks Graven back a few feet. Graven swings one sword. Prometheus parries, punches Graven in the face.

Graven staggers back toward the battlements. Prometheus throws a magical ice spike at him. Graven cuts it in two.

PROMETHEUS
 I vouched for you. Gave you purpose
 and this is how you repay me?!

Prometheus throws a plethora of fireballs. Graven avoids a few, takes one to the chest, hits the battlements.

Prometheus wraps his hand around Graven's throat, squeezes.

A dagger erupts from Prometheus' shoulder. He looks down, then back -- Xenia backs off.

PROMETHEUS
You work with him?!

XENIA
Prometheus, I know you're in there.
Fight him.

Graven tackles Prometheus. They roll down the steps.

Graven restrains Prometheus, arms and legs wrapped around his body. Prometheus struggles.

Xenia steps over Prometheus, light spills from her hands.

XENIA
You must remember...

She takes off his mask, red veins course down his face, his skin decays. She sets her glowing hand to his forehead.

XENIA
...remember...

FLASHES

A) Prometheus (human) stands inside of a cell. Xenia on the outside, smiles and runs her hand up his chest.

B) Prometheus slays DRAAGON (crowned black mask, red eyes) inside the throne room.

C) The crowned mask hits the floor...Prometheus raises it.

D) Darkness falls over Prometheus. His eyes turn red...

BACK TO SCENE

Prometheus YELLS in agony...his eyes turn white...

Graven sets him free, steps back with Xenia. Prometheus convulses on the ground.

EXT. THE SHADOW REALM - NIGHT

Twin moons (one red) shine down on a desolated field of broken bodies and tattered earth.

Prometheus (human) rises from the ground with a sword in hand. He grimaces in pain, looks up --

Draagon (masked and red-eyed) plunges a demon sword at him. Prometheus counters. Sparks fly.

EXT. KARTOKA, TOWER BALCONY - NIGHT

Prometheus lays on the ground, manically twitching. His eyes ice white and body contorted. He YELLS.

Graven rips the King's amulet from around Prometheus' neck, clenches a fist around it.

They watch as Prometheus suffers.

GRAVEN

We must go.

Graven's undead griffin lands, he mounts it, extends his hand to Xenia, who hesitates.

XENIA

I can't leave him alone, Graven.

GRAVEN

We have to go, Xenia. This may be our only chance.

XENIA

I won't leave him. Go. Please.

Graven reluctantly nods, his griffin takes off.

Xenia takes a seat atop the stairs, watches Prometheus. A tear rolls down her cheek.

XENIA

Fight him, beloved...

EXT. THE SHADOW REALM - NIGHT

Draagon hoists Prometheus into the air.

DRAAGON

Look around you. Your efforts are in vain, Prometheus. None survive.

Draagon throws Prometheus at a rock --

INT. PROMETHEUS' HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Young Prometheus (Boy) sits at the table with Woman and eats a small dinner.

Prometheus CRASHES through the back door, rolls across the floor. Draagon enters. Prometheus pushes up.

The boy and woman remain blind to them.

DRAAGON

Your memories are all you have. In time they will fade.

Prometheus swings his sword. Draagon parries with ease, kicks Brisburn through a wall --

EXT. ELDERVALE, STREETS - NIGHT

Eldervale burns. The woman hugs the boy close as demons and Drago descend around them.

Draagon pins Prometheus to a wall, makes him watch.

Demons grab the woman, take the boy (screaming and reaching) away. Demons rip the woman apart limb-from-limb.

PROMETHEUS

NAAAAAAHHHHHH!!!

Prometheus breaks free, unleashes a magical blast of energy that sends Draagon crashing to the ground.

Prometheus kicks off a wall, plunges the sword. The blade pierces Draagon's chest. Draagon kicks Prometheus away.

He stands, removes the sword and chuckles.

DRAAGON

Like I told you, there is no hope.
Bow to me.

PROMETHEUS

This is my memory, it's mine! I am
in control here!

DRAAGON

No, you're not. You never were.

Reality bends. Demons restrain Draagon. He fights them off as Prometheus rushes for his sword.

Draagon decapitates a demon, grabs a Draggo out the air and tears its wings off, throws it at more Demons, they fall.

A sword erupts from his chest, twists. Prometheus pushes the blade further, twists it violently.

Draagon fights it, tries toe scape. Prometheus shoves it all the way through, rips it out, plunges --

-- the blade explodes out of Draagon's neck and knocks the mask off to reveal a hideously mangled half-skull beneath.

DRAAGON

No! NO!

EXT. THE SHADOW REALM - NIGHT

Draagon drops to all fours, blood drizzles down his neck and chest. He crawls for a demon sword.

Prometheus cuts his hand off. Sets the blade to his neck and holds him back. Draagon reaches for the demon blade.

PROMETHEUS

I'm taking my body back...

Draagon spits blood, GROWLS.

PROMETHEUS

...go to Galier, you bastard!

Prometheus drags the blade through Draagon's neck. The demon king's head falls off, body crumbles, blood spits out.

Light spills from the dark clouds onto Prometheus, he basks in it, drops the sword and closes his eyes.

EXT. KARTOKA, TOWER BALCONY - NIGHT

Xenia's eyes go wide in abject shock. Emotions flood her face, sadness, happiness and love.

Prometheus' flesh heals. His decomposing skin revives. The red veins retreat. His eyes turn human...he COUGHS...

Xenia kneels at his side, checks on him. He sees her...

PROMETHEUS

Xenia...

XENIA

You forced him out, Prometheus. You
did it. You beat him.

The mask RATTLES...both look over, fear in their eyes.

The mask rises off the ground. Black goo from the walls
shoots over to it, forms a large body. Red eyes flare...

DRAAGON (O.S.)

You cannot kill an immortal, boy...

Draagon appears in all his glory, clenches a fist. His red
eyes lock onto the duo.

DRAAGON

You can only make it stronger.

Xenia helps Prometheus to his feet, they step away...

Draagon summons his sword. Weighs it in hand, methodically
makes his way toward them.

Prometheus collapses, Xenia tries to help.

PROMETHEUS

Run! Go!

XENIA

I'll never leave you, Prometheus.
We stay together.

PROMETHEUS

Xenia, I'm begging you...RUN!

Draagon stabs at Prometheus. Xenia steps in the way, the
sword pushes through her back. She grips Prometheus...

Prometheus looks into her waning eyes. She winces...

XENIA

Prometheus...

She throws a magical ball with a dying effort. A tear in
reality opens up.

XENIA

...goodbye.

She pushes him through the portal, which closes.

Draagon rips the sword from Xenia's back. She drops to her
knees. He stands over her.

DRAAGON

All of these years I believed us to be forever. You saved me, showed me the way out, gave me a purpose. And now you turn against me, for *them*?

XENIA

Our cause is corrupt. Lord Erenius wants to destroy the world...

DRAAGON

No. He wants to rid the world of the ones that would. Even the ones he gifted with life now turn their backs on him...

He grabs her cheeks, brings her close.

DRAAGON

We once shared a vision to rule this world together.

XENIA

That vision was yours...this world has no ruler.

He steps away, pondering on a thought.

XENIA

One day, you will see that...

DRAAGON

No...
(beat)
...I won't.

He slashes her head off in one swing. Her body drops...

Clouds above the palace darken. Thunder RUMBLES. Whips of furious lightning bombard the city.

Draagon sheathes his sword, approaches the battlements.

MYRWARRNA descends from the clouds. A huge titan of a beast. Three times the size of any other dragon.

Draagon mounts her, looks back at Xenia's body. He turns his gaze skyward. Myrwarrna soars to the clouds, ROARS.

EXT. MIDRAS SKIES - NIGHT

Fog looms over a vast ocean. Sea serpents rise from the depths, spurt columns of water like whales.

Brisburn and Orion glide over the ocean. Devaruath's claw sprays the water...

A large sea serpent leaps out of the water. Orion flies beneath it. Brisburn soars over it.

BRISBURN

WHOA!

Another serpent launches out of the water, opens its jaw.

BRISBURN

AAAAAHHHHHHH!!

Kayla banks left to avoid. Brisburn looks back, sees the beast land in the water and GULPS.

Orion rejoins him.

ORION

Having fun?

BRISBURN

Why are we flying so low over the bloody sea-serpent filled ocean?!

ORION

Look up and you'll get your answer.

Brisburn looks up.

A flood of Draggo blanket the sky, thousands of them all soaring high.

ORION

Happy?

Brisburn does the "perfect" gesture.

ORION

This way...

Orion swoops down. Kayla drives down like a torpedo.

BRISBURN

Kayla...

She levels out. In the short distance looms a cave.

BRISBURN
We're not going in there are we?

Orion flies into the cave.

BRISBURN
Only live once.

INT. CAVES OF VALYR - NIGHT

Stalactites and stalagmites block the way. Streams of lava flow throughout.

Orion and Brisburn navigate through the obstructions. They avoid lava-falls. Lava spits upward, boils and bubbles.

INT. THE WELL OF ETERNITY - NIGHT

The orb glows. Graven's image reflects in its glass.

Graven holds his hand over the orb, considers. He plucks and inspects it. He squints.

A pair of white eyes burst open and scrunch in anger within the orb.

ERENIUS (V.O.)
Kierani alouan.

ALISHA (O.S.)
Graven?

Graven looks over his shoulder at a worried Alisha.

ALISHA
Put the orb down.

GRAVEN
I can't.

The amulet, on a chain, descends from his hand. He faces her, orb and amulet in hand.

Alisha surveys him, subtly removes a dagger behind her back.

ALISHA
Graven, talk to me. What is this?

She slowly advances on him.

ALISHA

Tell me, and perhaps we can find a way to work it out.

He pockets the amulet, unsheathes a sword.

GRAVEN

If you must stand in my way...

ALISHA

You would betray Orion?

Graven lifts the orb.

GRAVEN

Draagon and Orion have fought over this for centuries. I can keep this away from them both.

West, behind a column, overhears the exchange.

ALISHA

Who are you working with? What have they promised you?

GRAVEN

I work for no one but myself. This is my burden, stand down.

ALISHA

I can't do that, Graven. In Orion's absence I am in charge and I am ordering you to drop the orb.

A hair's breadth separates them.

GRAVEN

I bow to no one...

She stabs at him. He parries the dagger, throws her into a wall. He walks to the exit. West steps in his path.

WEST

Put the orb-

Graven backhands West into a wall.

ALISHA

GRAVEN!?!

GRAVEN

Goodbye, Alisha.

He leaves.

West helps Alisha to her feet, she nods. He scoops the dagger off the ground.

WEST
What does the orb do, Alisha?

ALISHA
It opens Erenius' vault.

West steals after Graven.

BIN (V.O.)
Never been too fond o' rabbits.

EXT. BEIRSWOOD, CAMP - NIGHT

Children huddle around the campfire with their parents and other adults.

Bin chews meat from a rabbit leg, spits a bone out. Felicia grimaces, sets down her food. Nora takes up her canteen.

BIN
Not enough meat on 'em, and too many darn bones.

FELICIA
It's better than nothin'.

BIN
We may as well be eating air, lass.

NORA
Here.

She hands him the canteen, he raises it to her, smiles.

NORA
We have to find shelter soon. How far to Forn?

BIN
Three, maybe four days.

A GIRL (5) COUGHS, a woman wraps a blanket around her, rubs her little shoulders.

NORA
Are you okay, little one?

The girl nods.

NORA

We must-

Bushes RUSTLE, twigs SNAP.

Bin grabs his axe, stands. Nora and Felicia grab their own weapons, wait. Bin takes point.

A pair of pale green hands rise from behind a bush, and out walks a GHARNIK (Orc, 40s, a boar-human with pale skin, equipped with a bow and a sword).

GHARNIK

I come in peace with an offering.

Gharnik steps into camp, surveys the people.

BIN

What do you want, Orc?

GHARNIK

Merely to offer you sanctuary. My people have a settlement due north of this point. I can take you.

Bin chuckles, shakes his head.

BIN

I don't think so. See, I read a few tales about your kind, you eat people, alive.

GHARNIK

Stories shame us, true. But my own brothers and sisters averted from that course. We're not your enemy.

Two more ORCS emerge dragging a sack across the ground, something wriggles inside.

Felicia and Nora take a cautious step back.

The orcs drop the sack in front of Bin. Inside, a HISS. Gharnik steps on the sack.

GHARNIK

Though we believe *this* thing is.

BIN

Draggo...where'd you find it?

GHARNIK

It was tracking you. Given more time, its friends would have found you. And we'd not be having this discussion right now.

Gharnik stabs the "Draggo", a low-hiss sounds, like a tire being punctured. The sack deflates...

GHARNIK

Gather your people and follow us.
Or stay out here if you please.
Just know the offer is there if you wish to take it. Goodnight, dwarf.

Gharnik and his brothers turn away...

NORA

Is it safe there?

FELICIA

Can ye protect us?

GHARNIK

Shelter is all we can offer you.

People agree to this, rise from their slumber.

BIN

Alright, but if you try to eat us, I'm gonna hurt ya. Understood?

GHARNIK

Point taken, dwarf.

BIN

It's *Bin*.

Gharnik extends his hand.

GHARNIK

Gharnik.

Bin shakes Gharnik's hand.

GHARNIK

Follow us and mind your step. The roads can be rather treacherous in these conditions.

INT. CAVES OF VALYR - NIGHT

Orion leads Brisburn up a large funnel of sorts, below them, a lake of boiling lava.

BRISBURN

Uh...is this what I think it is?

The lake recedes...bubbles spit.

ORION

If you're thinking *volcano* then you would be accurate.

BRISBURN

We're in a friggin' volcano?!?!

Brisburn snaps Kayla's reins and bolts past Orion.

BRISBURN

Are you mad?!

EXT. VALYR, VOLCANO - NIGHT

Brisburn emerges first, Orion just behind him. The Huntsman looks back -- WHOOSH --

-- the volcano shoots out a 400-ft wall of lava.

Brisburn and Orion fly side-by-side. Brisburn scowls.

BRISBURN

That's the last time I follow you into a dark cave.

ORION

Rule number eleven: Don't go into dark caves with anyone.

Brisburn raises an eyebrow.

BRISBURN

Did you just make that up?

ORION

Yes.

They soar down through ash to reveal --

EXT. VALYR - NIGHT

A scarred and nightmarish land enveloped by volcanoes. Lava rivers flow around, lava-falls descend onto charred rocks.

In the center of it, a pyramid nestled between volcanoes.

BRISBURN

This is the worst idea I've ever gone along with.

Orion bows his head.

BRISBURN

Something wrong?

ORION

I grew up here. I lived in that temple. I fought on these fields against the Alliance.

BRISBURN

Must be hard to see it this way.

ORION

More than you can imagine.

Orion locks onto the pyramid/temple.

Myrwarrna swoops down from above, her wing clips Orion, sends him and Devaruath into a wicked downward spiral.

Brisburn looks back. Myrwarrna stops, swirls around and ROARS as she pursues him.

BRISBURN

Oh you are kidding me?!

EXT. THE FIELDS OF VALYR - NIGHT

Orion and Devaruath crash land. Orion rolls off, nearly hits the lava. Devaruath's wing stops his momentum.

Orion GROANS, pushes up --

Above, Myrwarrna snaps her jaws at Kayla's tail.

Orion limps over to Devaruath. One of his wings broken. It tries to lift it, to no avail.

Lava spits up from the lake. The earth trembles. The rock cracks in-two.

Golden light shoots from Orion's hand. Mends the griffin's wing. Devaruath stands, SQUAWKS. Orion mounts him.

The ground splits and sinks as Devaruath whisks Orion away.

EXT. VALYR - NIGHT

Brisburn hangs on as Kayla performs evasive maneuvers. The dragon snaps at her, SNARLS, breathes fire.

Kayla banks around a large rock spike. The fire melts it.

BRISBURN

Uh...swoop...

Kayla drops into a spiral. Myrwarrna pursues, breathes more fire. Kayla WHINNIES.

BRISBURN

Bank left!

Kayla banks left, Myrwarrna barely misses with a bite.

BRISBURN

Get me close...

Brisburn removes his bow, loads an arrow and takes aim. Kayla flies directly at Myrwarrna. Brisburn shoots --

-- the arrow glides through the air, BOUNCES off Myrwarrna's body and drops.

Myrwarrna squints. Her pupil dilates, locks on. Kayla's reflection in her eye.

Brisburn looks up as Myrwarrna glides above him. He hooks his bow over his back, snaps the reins.

EXT. VALYR TEMPLE, BALCONY - NIGHT

Draagon, fireballs in his hands, gazes skyward at Orion as he tries to get to Brisburn and Myrwarrna.

Draagon launches a barrage of fireballs. Green lights swirl around his hands. He shoots them...

EXT. VALYR - NIGHT

Orion avoids the fireballs. Green light strikes Devaruath, who SQUAWKS and falls out of the sky. Orion leaps off.

EXT. THE FIELDS OF VALYR - NIGHT

Devaruath hits with tremendous impact. Orion slows his own momentum, skids to a halt on the charred surface...

Devaruath lies motionless. Orion rushes to his side.

ORION

Devaruath...

Devaruath's glazed over eyes reflect him. Orion sadly bows his head, closes his eyes.

ORION

...goodbye, my friend.

DRAAGON (O.S.)

Poetic...

Orion stands, looks back with a scowl on his face. Draagon waits for him, sword in one hand, fireball in the other.

DRAAGON

...the prodigal son returns to the place of his origin...to die.

ORION

Draagon.

DRAAGON

So you do remember me.

Orion unsheathes Soulrend, clenches his empty fist. His veins and eyes light up gold.

DRAAGON

I thought you had forgotten what I did to you.

ORION

Enough talk.

Orion shifts through space, lands behind Draagon and stabs. Draagon disappears. Orion scours for movement.

Draagon appears, stabs. Orion parries, swings. Draagon blocks the attempt, thrusts his empty hand forward.

Orion's feet crack rock as he slides backwards. He ripostes, blocks Draagon's attempt. They break. Circle one another.

Draagon summons fire. Orion summons ice. They throw spells at one another. Columns of fire and ice collide.

INT. DUNGEON, HALLS - NIGHT

Bloodstained walls and decrepit tunnels.

Maralda makes her way to two-large doors at the end of a rigid hallway. She peaks through the bars.

INT. DUNGEON, TORTURE ROOM - NIGHT

Cages filled with humans, women, children and men alike, sit around the room. In the center, vats of boiling lava.

Men, chained to steel, lower into vats SCREAMING.

Acacius mans levers. Demons grab a small child from a cage and drag him away as the mother SCREAMS for help.

Demons throw the small child to DEATH HOUNDS, monstrous dogs with torn flesh and fanged teeth. Hounds envelop the child.

INT. DUNGEON, HALLS - NIGHT

Maralda tries the handle. She backs off a few feet, runs at it. Her eyes glow gold for a second. She crashes through it.

INT. DUNGEON, TORTURE ROOM - NIGHT

The child CRIES and backs into a corner. A hound grabs the leg, bites down. Another hound goes for the neck.

Maralda grabs a fire-poker and jumps into the enclosure. She stops the hound from getting the child's neck.

Demons vault into the enclosure. Maralda jams the poker through one of their eyes.

Maralda helps the child out of the enclosure. Jumps out and sets the child in a cage, locks the door.

MARALDA

Stay here, okay?

A demon grabs her, throws her at Acacius' feet. The giant demon looks down, mace perched on his shoulder.

He swings the mace down -- Maralda scrunches her eyes.

The mace hits an invisible barrier. A wave of energy ripples through the air, eviscerates demons and hounds instantly.

The wave launches Acacius back into a vat of lava, which spills onto him. He writhes, ROARS.

Maralda grips her wrist, HISSES in pain. A mark burns in, in the form of a pyramid with sun flares around it.

EXT. THE SANCTUARY, COURTYARD - NIGHT

Dawnbringer wriggles in its stone. The magical barrier fades and people gather, watch in awe.

Dawnbringer erupts from its place, soars up to the opening.

EXT. BEIRSWOOD - NIGHT

Graven makes his way downstream. He looks back, squints...

West, behind a tree, peeks. He can see Graven walking away. West sneaks out, crosses the water.

EXT. ELYSIUM - NIGHT

Graven fits the orb into its slot. Veins of light ride up the wall to form a tree. The wall opens.

Graven regains the orb, enters the passage.

West looks on from a nearby boulder. Waits a moment, then goes for it.

EXT. VALYR - NIGHT

Kayla spirals over Myrwarrna, Brisburn drags his sword along the dragon's neck, leaves no mark. Kayla levels out.

Myrwarrna turns, pursues Brisburn and breathes fire. Kayla swoops down, the fire follows her. She spins...

Brisburn stands on Kayla's back, grabs hold of the reins and surfs her down through the air.

Myrwarrna flies directly at them, opens her monstrous jaws.

Brisburn leaps, Kayla descends, the dragon's jaws snap at the air. Brisburn lands on Myrwarrna's back.

He grabs hold of a backbone horn, clings on with one hand, feet dangling over certain doom.

BRISBURN
 Didn't think this through...

He crawls up her back to the skull. Raises the sword and plunges it through her neck. Myrwarna ROARS.

She spirals out of control, descends at breakneck speed.

Brisburn WHISTLES, leaps off. Kayla catches him, he hits his nuts as he lands, WINCES...

BRISBURN
 (high-pitched and painfully)
 Ow...

Myrwarna crashes into the side of a volcano, rolls down onto the ground...

BRISBURN
 (holding scrotum)
 Take us down...please...ow...

EXT. THE FIELDS OF VALYR - NIGHT

Orion and Draagon trade precise and lightning-fast strikes, countered and parried with precision.

Draagon breaks Orion's defense, swings his sword. Cuts Orion across the chest. Orion staggers.

Draagon forces him back with a punch, and another, follows with an elbow to the jaw and a vicious uppercut.

Orion staggers into a jagged rock spike. Draagon plunges the sword. Orion moves. The sword crashes through stone.

Orion shoots a beam of gold light at Draagon. Draagon deflect the magic with his sword, advances.

EXT. VALYR - NIGHT

Dawnbringer glides through the air...

EXT. THE FIELDS OF VALYR - NIGHT

Draagon notices the sword, squints...

EXT. THE VOLCANIC EXPANSE - NIGHT

Brisburn witnesses the sword as it approaches the temple.

Myrwarrna rises, uses her wings to prop herself up. The ground around her trembles.

Brisburn turns to witness her resolve, looks down at his sword and nods. He mounts Kayla.

BRISBURN

Let's do this my way.

Brisburn discards the sword. Pulls out his bow, nocks an arrow and stares at Myrwarrna.

BRISBURN

Run.

Kayla runs directly at Myrwarrna.

MARALDA (V.O.)

Get out of here and don't turn back
-- go, now!

INT. DUNGEON, TORTURE ROOM - NIGHT

Acacius, armor heavily melted to his flesh, rises from his slumber and grabs his mace.

Prisoners exit through the door. Dawnbringer flies over their heads at Maralda. She GASPS.

Dawnbringer lands in her hand. A wave of golden energy surges down her body. Her eyes flick-to-gold.

Dawnbringer brightens in her hand. She inspects it.

ACACIUS

Dawnbringer!

Acacius double-hands the mace, shambles forward. A bolt of lightning hits him.

Maralda flinches, turns her head slightly. Another bolt shoots from the blade. She smiles.

MARALDA
Okay...that's different.

INT. ELYSIUM, THE VAULT - NIGHT

Large and tainted by darkness. Columns span the length of a walkway leading to a staircase, atop of which rests a door.

Graven stands at the door, contemplating. Orb in hand.

GRAVEN
I find it infuriating when people
avoid orders for self gain in a bid
to prove themselves...

Graven turns to greet West at the foot of the staircase.

GRAVEN
Did you not heed my warning, boy?

WEST
Oh I heard it, but when you steal
something to unlock a God's prison
I see it as a potential problem.

GRAVEN
I can end this war before it begins
-- I can save this world.

WEST
You're delusional. He's a *God*. You
can't kill a God. It's impossible.

West makes his way up the steps.

WEST
Just walk away.

GRAVEN
I've come too far to turn back. I
gave my word to my people that I
would stop *Him*. And so I shall.

WEST
I'm no warrior, no soldier, but I'm
here to help you not do something
you'll regret.

Graven has second thoughts...

WEST
What happened to your people?

GRAVEN
They were destroyed, by *Him*.

WEST
So you're the last of your kind?

Graven catches a glimpse of himself in the orb's reflection.

GRAVEN
I'm not sure what I am anymore.

WEST
If you are the last, then you must ensure your kind survives. If I were the last of my kind, I'd not throw away my life on some quest for redemption.

Graven considers this.

WEST
Give me the orb...

Graven shoots West a concerned look.

WEST
I can take it back to Sanctuary, where it belongs. Give it to me.

Graven guards the orb.

WEST
You really should give me the orb.

GRAVEN
You can't be...

Graven unsheathes a sword, points the blade at West.

WEST
Graven, what are you-

GRAVEN
(whispering)
Erenius!

A sinister smirk crosses West's face, his eyes turn white and scrunch in anger.

West backhands Graven into a wall with enough force to break the stone. The orb spills from his hand, rolls --

-- to West's feet. He plucks the orb, admires it.

GRAVEN

How?!

WEST

(possessed)

Humans are weak. The boy was dead
the moment he stepped inside this
place. All because of you, Graven.

West fits the orb in a groove on the door. Veins of light
ride up it to form another tree. The door CRACKS, opens...

WEST

You opened the door. You allowed
him inside. You brought me --

A SILHOUETTED FIGURE of 9ft and a broad shoulder span steps
from the light in the doorway.

ERENIUS

-- freedom.

West collapses. Graven pushes up as --

ERENIUS (40s, masked and outfitted in a crystallized armor
set) steps from the door wielding an EPIC SWORD.

Graven dual-wields and sprints at the speed of light.
Erenius grabs him with ease, raises him.

ERENIUS

You showed such promise. But your
time is at an end.

Graven grabs at Erenius' hand. Erenius SNAPS his neck and
throws him through a column.

Erenius walks down the steps. He clenches a fist. Walls and
the ceiling crumble.

Erenius makes his way to the exit. The ceiling falls onto
columns, which shatter like glass, the place caves in.

EXT. ELYSIUM - NIGHT

Erenius basks in the moonlight. All manner of forest animals
scatter in his presence. Thunder RUMBLES high above.

Erenius raises a hand. Lightning strikes him. He absorbs the
energy, unleashes a deafening GROWL.

EXT. BEIRSWOOD - NIGHT

Bin and Gharnik approach an Orc settlement enveloped by large walls with watchtowers at every corner.

The GROWL explodes and reaches across the forest.

People and orcs grab their ears and fall to knees. Bin drops to his knees, covers his ears.

EXT. THE FIELDS OF VALYR - NIGHT

Draagon cuts Orion across the legs. Orion falls, Soulrend spills from his hand.

The GROWL reaches Valyr. Draagon gazes skyward --

-- a surge of dark energy floods across the skies. Darkness grows, spreads across the world.

Orion, hand to his leg, looks up.

ORION

No...

DRAAGON

It is done. He is free.

Orion grabs Soulrend, swings. Draagon blocks, cuts his hand off. Golden light and blood shoots out from the stub.

Draagon kicks Orion onto his back, steps on his other hand and raises his sword.

DRAAGON

And your time has come...

ORION

Then end it.

Draagon plunges the sword. Another blade stops it. Draagon looks up --

Prometheus wields the blade, and a pissed off expression.

PROMETHEUS

Not today!

Prometheus shoves Draagon through a boulder. Looks down.

Orion looks up at him. Prometheus extends his hand. Orion nods, grabs it and rises.

Orion watches his dismembered hand regrow. He extends it, Soulrend flies into his grip.

Draagon steps through the rubble, two swords in hand.

Prometheus and Orion stand side-by-side.

ORION

Are you ready?

PROMETHEUS

Are you?

Orion smirks. They go for Draagon, throw everything they can at him. He parries and deflects their attacks.

Prometheus swings. Draagon blocks, parries Orion's attempt.

EXT. VALYR - NIGHT

Brisburn clings onto Myrwarrna's horn as she spirals out of control. Kayla swoops in, WHINNIES. Myrwarrna ROARS.

Kayla hovers upfront, kicks at Myrwarrna's eye. Brisburn jams his sword through Myrwarrna's head. She ROARS again.

BRISBURN

You're mine now, bitch.

Blood from Brisburn's hand drizzles into Myrwarrna's wound. Her eyes dilate...

BRISBURN

WHOA!

Brisburn's eyes dilate, pupils squash inward --

BRISBURN

Whoa...

BRISBURN P.O.V: The world functions on heat. Beautiful colors and flowing waves of heat signatures.

Myrwarrna SNARLS. Brisburn removes his sword from her skull and she enters a wicked downward spiral.

Reins spawn. Brisburn grabs them, pulls back.

Myrwarrna's front claws scrape through the lava and she soars skyward.

BRISBURN

WOO!!!!

INT. DUNGEON, TORTURE ROOM - NIGHT

Maralda flips through the air to avoid Acacius' mace. She slashes him across the back of the legs. He falls to a knee.

Maralda kicks off a wall onto his back, stabs away at his face. He GRUMBLES, stands and flails. She holds on.

Acacius grabs her, throws her. She stops mid-air, floats a moment, and flies at him.

Maralda plunges the sword through his forehead. She rides him down, THUD...

Maralda steps off the downfallen giant, looks at the sword.

MARALDA

Awesome...

EXT. THE FIELDS OF VALYR - NIGHT

Draagon throws Prometheus into a boulder, grabs Orion's throat and lifts him high.

Prometheus pushes up off the ground. Draagon throws his sword at him. The blade pierces his shoulder, he drops.

Orion breaks free, swings. Draagon grabs his hand, disarms him and throws him to the ground in one-swift-motion.

Draagon stands in the middle of them both.

DRAAGON

There is no hope for you.

He holds out his hand. The demon sword erupts from Prometheus' shoulder and finds its place in his grip.

DRAAGON

This cause you fight for, those you fight to protect, none of it will matter in the end. Erenius is free. He is coming. And when he arrives, he shall take back his w-

BRISBURN (O.S.)

Hey, demon dick!

Draagon looks --

Brisburn mounts a grounded Myrwarrna, who SNARLS. Fire spurts from her nostrils.

BRISBURN
The sun's out.

Myrwarrna ROARS and breathes a column of fire at Draagon. The demon drops to a knee, fire melts his armor and flesh.

DRAAGON
AAAAHHHHHHHH!!!!

Everything, except the mask, disintegrates. The mask hits the ground, CLUNK.

Orion and Prometheus fall in and admire the scene.

PROMETHEUS
A Dragon Rider, eh? Different.

Brisburn dismounts, extends his hands and chuckles.

BRISBURN
Who needs a magical sword when you got a fire-breathing dragon?

Brisburn points at Orion.

BRISBURN
And you gave up on me.

ORION
I always knew, Brisburn. You were always destined for this.

BRISBURN
You're just saying that because I got a dragon now.

Maralda approaches.

BRISBURN
Mara...

MARALDA
Brisburn...

They find each other, embrace in a caring hug.

Prometheus lifts the mask from the ground, turns it over in his hand, acknowledges Orion.

Brisburn and Maralda join them. Maralda GULPS at Myrwarrna.

MARALDA
 (to Orion)
 Friend of yours?

BRISBURN
 Actually, she's mine.

Maralda SNICKERS.

BRISBURN
 What?!

MARALDA
 Like you own a dragon, Brisburn.
 You can barely ride a horse.

BRISBURN
 Yeah, well...shut up.

PROMETHEUS
 It's not over yet. There is much
 that needs to be done.

BRISBURN
 No, no. I'm going for a cold mead
 and a hot meal. Sound good, Mara?

Thunder RUMBLES, lightning strikes all around the plains and volcanoes erupt. Lava cascades down mountainsides.

All four, and Myrwarrna, gaze skyward. The clouds grow darker and cover the land in shadows.

Erenius walks on lava. The world around him blackens as if he emits radiation. Lightning emanates from his hands.

BRISBURN
 What in Alderin's name is that?

PROMETHEUS
 That's who we fight against.

Brisburn and Maralda shift their gaze to Orion, who pulls up Soulrend and wrests his hand around the handle.

ORION
 Brisburn, Maralda, board Myrwarrna.
 Prometheus, I need you beside me.
 We must keep him contained.

Brisburn mounts Myrwarrna, extends his hand, Maralda climbs up and finds comfort.

BRISBURN
What's the plan?

ORION
End him before he ends us.

BRISBURN
Oh...great plan.

Brisburn snaps the reins, Myrwarrna takes to the sky, forms behind Orion and Prometheus as they advance.

Erenius unsheathes his sword, wields a lightning bolt in his other hand and stalks his prey.

PROMETHEUS
We stand no chance, brother. He will kill us all.

ORION
Only one way to find out.

Prometheus nods and fits on the mask. He raises his sword. Orion attacks first.

Erenius swats him into a boulder. Prometheus lunges. Erenius grabs him, throws him skyward and launches a bolt.

The bolt hits Prometheus, who crashes out of the sky.

Myrwarrna breathes fire. Erenius raises an arm, a magical barrier blocks the firebombing.

Erenius grabs Myrwarrna and tosses her to the ground. Brisburn and Maralda spill to the deck...

Prometheus lunges. Erenius holds out a hand, waves it. Prometheus hits a boulder, crumbles to the ground.

Lakes of lava boil and spit fountains into the air. The ground trembles. Volcanoes explode.

Myrwarrna stands, SNARLS and breathes fire. Erenius walks through the flames, plunges his sword --

Brisburn deflects it. Erenius throws him skyward -- Maralda attacks, the God parries and grabs her throat.

Prometheus stands, Brisburn collides with him, both fall.

Myrwarrna snaps her jaws. Erenius clenches a fist. The dragon's throat lights up, throbs red/orange...

Myrwarrna spits fire, choking on something...

Maralda breaks free, swings Dawnbringer. Erenius parries the attempt with ease. She steps back. He stalks her.

Brisburn and Prometheus rise.

BRISBURN
How do you kill a God?

Prometheus acknowledges the mask, raises it. Brisburn swats it from his hand.

BRISBURN
Are you insane?!

PROMETHEUS
There are no alternatives. I have no other choice.

BRISBURN
I don't know you, but I doubt you went through all that crap just to lose your soul again.

Maralda and Erenius trade precise attacks and deflections. Erenius gains the advantage, throws her --

Orion catches her.

ORION
Stay on your feet, Dawnbringer.

Orion shoves her away. Deflects Erenius' sword and swings. Erenius catches his hand, twists, SNAP. Orion YELPS.

Energy transfers from Orion to Erenius. Orion wanes.

Maralda stabs Erenius through the back. Light spills from a gaping hole in his chest.

He turns, backhands her to earth. His wound seals. ROAR. He turns again --

Brisburn, on Myrwarrna's back, slashes him across the throat. Orion shoves Erenius back.

Prometheus stabs the god through the chest and shoves him -- Maralda decapitates him. Light shoots from the stub.

Erenius' headless body stumbles...light takes over him.

The ground cracks, splits. Lava spills onto the land.

Orion balances himself as a portion of ground splits away. He hops onto another piece, teeters on the edge.

Prometheus grabs his hand, reels him in. The ground around them splits away, begins to sink.

Maralda teeters on the edge, backs up, teeters again. The ground around her, a small isle in a lake of lava.

BRISBURN

MARA!

Brisburn swoops down on Myrwarrna, extends his hand. Maralda leaps, grabs it, as the isle sinks into the fire.

Maralda climbs aboard, hands around his waist.

MARALDA

Thanks...

BRISBURN

Don't mention it.

Orion and Prometheus run as the earth behind them sinks into boiling lava. Prometheus stops, scans the mask.

ORION

LEAVE IT!

Prometheus considers...

ORION

Brother...

Prometheus looks.

ORION

...trust me.

Volcanoes around the perimeter EXPLODE, large rocks shoot across the air, volcanoes implode, lava spills out.

Erenius' body sinks into the lava, burns away. His hand is the last thing to descend...it shoots a lightning bolt...

Orion and Prometheus run for the temple.

Myrwarrna cuts down and soars overhead. Brisburn points. Maralda leans down, extends her hand.

MARALDA

ORION! Grab on!

Orion grabs her hand, swings onto the dragon.

Lava erupts from the ground around Prometheus, he turns back, another explosion hits him in the face, burns flesh.

ORION
Get me close...

Orion leans down.

Prometheus sinks, lava rides up his legs, he YELLS. Orion grabs him, pulls him away.

ORION
Hold on!

BOOM...BOOM...BOOM...

A large TITAN cast from brimstone and lava ascends from the lake and ROARS.

BRISBURN
Uh...guys? GUYS?! We may have a bit
of big friggin' problem!

Orion looks, his face falls. Prometheus, half of his face hideously burned, locks onto the titan.

MARALDA
What is that thing?

Orion sighs...

ORION
I should have known it would not be
as simple. The prophecy was a lie.

MARALDA
What *prophecy*?

BRISBURN
Dawnbringer's meant to kill Erenius
-- that's Erenius...

PROMETHEUS
There is still a way...

Prometheus pulls up the mask.

PROMETHEUS
...I know what I must do. Give me
the blade...

ORION
No. We'll find another way.

PROMETHEUS

There is no other way, Orion. I can
do it, just...trust me.

Orion contemplates...nods...

Prometheus fits on the mask. He keels in agony, scrunches up
his face, closes his eyes.

PROMETHEUS

(fighting pain)

You won't have long. You must get
as far from here as you can...

Orion extends Soulrend. Prometheus grips it. His eyes burst
open, red once more. He drops off...

Maralda, Brisburn and Orion watch as Prometheus free falls
over the titan.

Prometheus double-hands the sword, flies right at the mouth
as it opens.

PROMETHEUS

...so ends your reign...my lord...

The titan swallows Prometheus. Slowly, rays of light shoot
from its body. It writhes.

Lava cascades down mountains into the "bowl", overlap the
temple, stone and rocks crumble.

Myrwarrna avoids a lava-fall and soars into the clouds as --

BOOM -- the titan explodes, chunks of rock spray everywhere.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Myrwarrna flies. Maralda looks back, the light of the lava
lake dies down as fog shrouds it.

MARALDA

Is it over?

ORION

(downtrodden)

It's never over.

EXT. BEIRSWOOD, CLEARING - DAY

The same site from the beginning. Myrwarna drinks from the shallow stream. A buck has second thoughts, wanders off.

Orion sits on a tree stump. Maralda sheathes Dawnbringer and Brisburn sharpens arrowheads with a rock.

MARALDA

So what now?

ORION

I'll return to Sanctuary. There is something I must do.

Orion stands.

BRISBURN

And us? Dawnbringer and Dragon Rider do what after defeating the God of Darkness?

ORION

Bask in the fame if you must. In time, you will find your answer. I can do no more for you. From this point on, you're on your own...

BRISBURN

Well, you see the thing about us Blackthorns, is we're never alone. And neither are you.

Brisburn extends his hand.

BRISBURN

We'll be here when you need us. We owe you, Orion.

Orion shakes Brisburn's hand, appreciates that.

ORION

You owe me nothing, Huntsman.

Kayla lands, clacks her hoof off the ground and raises her wings proudly. Orion mounts her, grabs the reins.

ORION

Good fortune to you.

The hunters nod and smile.

Orion snaps the reins, Kayla stomps and runs, takes off into the gorgeous blue sky and WHINNIES.

Brisburn chuckles, shakes his head.

MARALDA
What's so funny?

BRISBURN
When you woke up last week did you
think we'd be fighting a God?

MARALDA
It hadn't crossed my mind, no.

Myrwarrna catches a salmon out of the air, chomps on it.

Maralda and Brisburn acknowledge this.

MARALDA
How are we going to explain her?

BRISBURN
Um...yeah, I got nothing.

MARALDA
Well, look at the bright side. You
have a dragon, I have a magic sword
-- the day's young.

BRISBURN
Then let's get started.

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

EXT. GALIER - NIGHT

Prometheus lies unconscious on a balcony overlooking large
rock formations. Slowly, he awakens...

Prometheus steps to the edge, eyes wide...

Hell looms in the distance. Volcanoes, demonic towers and
palaces. Lava, torturous devices and WINGED DEMONS.

A Drago descends on Prometheus. Prometheus raises Soulrend
and swings --

CUT TO BLACK:

THE JOURNEY HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN