ESORDIAN LEGENDS

VOLUME ONE:

"Neo"

CHAPTER ONE:

"Vortex of Memories"

Written by Phone Tha

Phone Tha phonethal756@gmail.com (626) 384-8530

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

Motes of meteors; dancing, streaking waves of light that glitter in the blackness.

VOLUME ONE

A BUTTERFLY NEBULA bursts into view!

EXT. ESORDIO - ESTABLISHING

We propel forward, through stars and rocks. The speed steadily increases...

A voice narrates the scene:

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Every story has beginning, middle, and an end, but not always in that order. The beginning sparks many stories, from creation to destruction; however, as curious as we are to explore the origins, the unfathomable answers of life do scare us.

We TRANSPIRE to a MULTITUDE OF GALAXIES that illuminate on the sidelines, slowly narrowing. Twisting. Turning. Forming a path...

Stars HURL at us! We LEAP to avoid crashing into a planet! We FALL at the sight of a charging asteroid! We TWIRL as a SOLAR FLARE scorches towards our path and - for a brief moment - we witness a BLAZING BLUE SPHERE devour its surroundings. We LURCH to avert being trapped in the center of TWO FUSING PLANETS!

Finally safe at the arrival of a clear view, we immediately LAUNCH forward at full speed!

Our speed falters to a halt at the sight of Earth. We linger on it... Until we see figures glide behind it. As we cautiously retrograde, the figures reveal themselves to be duplicates of Earth.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...But there is much to know. With
four little words, a grand adventure
begins: Once upon a time there existed
a place where various worlds alternate realities - resided; they
were independent worlds protected by
its very own hero.
(beat)

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But if these worlds are separated by an unseen barrier, what would happen if they were to...Collide?

VOLUME ONE

Two worlds suddenly COLLIDE! A sonic boom PULSATES!

The worlds begin to FUSE. An ARC forms in the center, as if a bridge...

INT. ARC BETWEEN WORLDS - CONTINUOUS

Dark clouds hem in the atmosphere.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

We all wonder how our existence was created. Was it by chance? Or by purpose? If by purpose, then there is a source. If there's a source, then there will always be beginning legends.

A storm stirs. GOLD DUST rushes the screen. It swirls around and forms the words:

"ESORDIAN LEGENDS"

On a background of whirling nimbi. A gust disperses the particles.

The clouds steadily spiral into a raging vortex. The gold dust returns to form the words spoken by the voice:

NARRATOR (V.O.)

His thoughts were scattered amongst various reveries - spiraling through the unkind winds of the Vortex of Memories.

The wind wisps away the dust and we see them off...

Until -- BOOM! A LIGHTNING FLASH blinds us!

A FIGURE in CRIMSON CAPE AND ARMOR plummets through the spiraling vortex! The vortex's roars steal away his screams.

A sudden LIGHTNING BOLT shocks him! An armor piece is blasted away! More lightning bolts ARC towards him as he attempts to navigate his fall!

He struggles to breathe whilst gliding through the unkind winds. GOLD DUST streams out of his mouth. Yet his face remains obscured - his figure, a silhouette.

A transparent barrier GLOOMS below him with shadows from beyond - a "Dimension Barrier".

The figure yells as he collides with the barrier! His armor flings off --

EXT./INT. WORLD OF STARDUST - ATMOSPHERE (NIGHT) - CONTINUOUS

-- and LIGHT PARTICLES smash in - slow-motion - as the dimension barrier SHATTERS and every aspect is flipped 360!

He nose-dives through a night sky, illuminated by snow-like specs. The sparkling stars reflect off these particles to give the impression of STARDUST.

The figure falls past a grandiose CLOCK TOWER of immeasurable proportions; it is archaic and paradoxically governs a strange steampunk city below.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Fate exists equally for all as a thread that transcends life and death, crossing this world and the next.

We push past the clock tower, to the ocean's horizon, where we spiral down into the water --

INT. WORLD OF THE SEA OF ATLAS - CONTINUOUS

-- and a drowning FIGURE comes into view . He clings onto a LOCKED CHEST - composed of intricate locks. He is only surrounded by otherwise empty water; nothing shows where he came from.

Luckily, a massive SHIP emerges into view, the British naval H.M.S. INTREPID.

INT. H.M.S. INTREPID - CONTINUOUS

Storm clouds approach. Some may notice a RED STAR in the sky. A SPOTTER surveys the area with a telescope. He sees the figure struggling in the water. Calls to the men below:

SPOTTER

Man overboard! There! Beyond the rails!

The men below scurry to the bow rails to see for themselves. ALISTAIR, a dashing young man, is the first to take action.

ALISTAIR

What are you waiting for? Get him out of there!

No one moves.

MATE

We've been sailing in the Sea of Atlas for months now, captain, being surrounded by nothing but water. Bringing him aboard will mean another mouth to feed, and we're already low on food rations.

ALISTAIR

I see.

IN A FLASH - Alistair unsheathes his blade and stabs his mate, then pushes him into the ocean.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)

Does anyone else see a problem with our food rations? No? Then get him aboard this boat!

Men scurry the deck.

MOMENTS LATER

Alistair helps his mates haul the figure onboard. He is revealed to be a young Middle-Eastern boy, SINBAD, roughly between 12 and 14, but his youth is difficult to comprehend.

ALISTAIR

Rochester!

And out comes a fleshy moustache-faced man, Alistair's first mate, ROCHESTER. His face retains an utterly creepy and paradoxically comical look. He kneels down beside Sinbad.

ROCHESTER

His breath be still spewlin', but not fer long out here, with the wind bitin'. The whispers among this tide bawlin' upon his soul.

ALISTAIR

Leave him in my quarters.

ROCHESTER

And what t'be with the chest?

ALISTAIR

Chest?

ROCHESTER

(presenting it to Alistair) T'was with the boy.

Alistair examines the intricate locks and patterns.

ALISTAIR

I ask myself, Mr. Rochester, how anyone could end up in a place conquered by sea when we are aboard the only known vessel here.

ROCHESTER

You thinkin' the chest be screamin' its story? Howlin' from inside?

ALISTAIR

I believe it may provide answers of escaping this incarceration.

Suddenly, Sinbad arises with brutal coughs.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)

It's alright! You're safe now. I am Captain Alistair.

SINBAD

(with one weak breath)

Sinbad...

Sinbad eyes the oncoming storm clouds and the chest before he falls conscious.

ALISTAIR

Welcome aboard the H.M.S. Intrepid, Sinbad.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Fate weaves our destiny to be eternally intertwined with others. To be explored to the ends of the world. Though it scares us to venture into the unknown, lost, we ready ourselves for the perilous voyage it may be...

The H.M.S. Intrepid disappears into a grey fog. Thunder RUMBLES, but within it is a LOW GROWL.

INT. WORLD OF STARDUST - TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

A CLOAKED FIGURE silently sits at his seat. He hears a crowd MURMUR beyond the walls. As he leans toward a window for a view, he spots the blazing figure in the atmosphere.

His eyes LUSTER BLUE, only giving us a glimpse of his face. Ice begins to coat the walls of the tavern. His breath becomes clear.

Everybody averts their attention to him with intimidated whispers. Realizing he's been discovered, he retreats outside.

EXT./INT. WORLD OF AESHA - FIELD - CONTINUOUS

A vortex spirals in the sky with ominous storm clouds. An armored figure treks through a field. As it rains, the armored figure removes the helmet to feel the droplets, revealing herself - a woman in a warrior's armor. Independent, yet dangerous.

Her tears mix with the rain. NOTE: When characters are speaking in a different language, their dialogue will be italicized. English subtitles are to accompany the dialogue.

ARMORED FIGURE

(In Chinese) Please forgive me, father. I must fight for you.

In the distance, a MAN desperately after her.

MAN (O.S.)

(In Chinese)

Mulan! Come home! Mulan! Please don't leave home!

This young, brave warrior is HUA MULAN. She attempts to hold back her tears and continues on.

Above in the sky is a RED SHOOTING STAR.

A LOW GROWL sneaks into the scene.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

We test our fate with sacrifices, enduring, but never forgetting, the pain we carry. Although there will always be pain, we know better - to look ahead to a new world beyond, full of infinite possibilities.

Mulan gazes up to the red star one last time. But is it really a star?

EXT. ATMOSPHERE - CONTINUOUS

The figure from earlier in the vortex burns through. Another Dimension Barrier SHADOWS below him. He falls through once more as all of his armor is blown away with intense force! A single GAUNTLET remains. He pierces through. FLAMES greet him and --

INT. KING'S PALACE (SECELIA'S CHAMBER) - CONTINUOUS

VOLUME ONE

-- A PAIR OF EYES FLASH OPEN. Filled with trepidation. They BLAZE. Images of destruction linger in her pupils, followed by the vision of the figure falling through the vortex.

A BOOMING KNOCK ON THE DOOR. It breaks the trance as she jolts out of her bed and we finally see Princess SECELIA DRAKUS-ARKON (23), a spoiled, often-times-controlfreak whose thoughts are always divergent with others. Her disheveled strawberry blonde hair flops over her aghast face.

The door slams open as Sir GAWAIN GRIER (28), a stern knight with eyes of experience who grants himself a sense of authority, forces his way into the room with several SERVANTS. He rushes to feel her forehead.

GAWAIN

You had another nightmare, didn't you? (to Servants) Get her some water! She's burning!

SECELIA

No! It's fine. It'll pass.

GAWATN

Her mind is sick. Get her water now!

The Servants hesitate.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Go!

SECELIA

Gawain, stop! They will tell my father!

GAWATN

You've been having these nightmares for weeks now! Enough with lying to your father again. You need help, Secelia.

SECELIA

What I need is rest. (off Gawain's stern expression) Please! I'll be better.

GAWAIN

Why do you insist on not receiving help?

SECELIA

Why do you persist on providing it? If I'm to be queen one day, I need to learn to handle my myself.

GAWAIN

My persistence is for your benefit.

SECELTA

Then let me retire.

Gawain struggles to decide.

GAWAIN

(to Servants)

Two of you leave. Get her water. The rest of you can <u>silently</u> return to your chambers.

SERVANT

We should tell the king of her condition, Sir Gawain.

GAWATN

A tongue is required to tell. Unless you want to prove otherwise, leave. Speak no word of this to anyone.

SECELIA

Princess' orders!

Gawain waits for the Servants to exit. Secelia carefully lies on the bed.

GAWAIN

This can't remain a secret forever; these nightmares are worsening!

SECELIA

The king has enough matters to worry about. Mine does not qualify as one.

GAWAIN

You're his daughter.

SECELIA

He lost the right to be my father when he let my mother die. A man like him doesn't need anyone.

Gawain feels her words. Lost, he's unable to further assuage her.

SECELIA (CONT'D)

(lost in a reverie)

There was fire...

GAWAIN

Fire?

SECELIA

And destruction. So much pain. I could feel it all... My dreams are plagued by darkness.

Gawain embraces her in an attempt of solace, unsure how to respond.

Through the window, a RED LIGHT glints in the starry sky. It burns bright, slowly engulfing the screen, until it reaches a point when the screen FLARES --

EXT. WORLD OF VESTRILL (ATMOSPHERE) - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

-- A PAIR OF EYES BLAZE OPEN.

FIRE wraps around the figure from earlier in the vortex. He lifelessly falls through the dark sky, his face still hampered from our view.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

But the existence of infinite possibilities alone is not satisfying for some. They seek to understand. They know of the rivers that connect to one another, but what they seek is the source of these rivers. The grand ocean. The source of all beginnings - Esordio.

Below the figure awaits a vast, thick forest. He nears it, until finally, he collides - blackout.

FADE OUT.

FADE TO:

EXT. CITY OF VESTRILL - FOREST - NIGHT

A dark forest. Moon light spills in.

The figure from the vortex, a YOUNG LAD (23), lies against a tree, unconscious. Dull-blonde hair falls into his eyes.

A subtle "X" is carved into the tree, just above his head.

His face remains hidden but we see his garments consist of crimson and gold colors - royalty. Yet there are also traces of blood.

VOLUME ONE

A SWORD remains beside the Lad, plunged into the dirt. Its silver blade reflects a FULL MOON in the sky. Its handle is of a PHOENIX, inlaid with a RUBY.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

I believe Heroes are forged, not born. Blended with destiny, the Hero is tested to see whether they would die to become a legend, or slain to become a terror.

The Lad regains conscious, but struggles to awaken. He falls on his back and hugs the tree. He BLINKS. A FIGURE IN WHITE appears before him, but only for a millisecond, before the Lad BLINKS again. The figure vanishes.

A voice emanates from beyond. It stirs the trees. This is a powerful force...

CHRONOS (V.O.)

Wake up!

A pair of anxious eyes FLASH open as the Lad rises with a deep gasp of air. Frightened, he springs up. We see his legs, his shoulders, his gorgeous eyes, but still not his face.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Whether his destiny may be for good, or evil. But if there is only one Hero for each world and every story is becoming one...

A draught rustles the trees. As the wind lifts away the leaves, we finally see the Lad's face. Bruised with cuts, its a cadaverous appearance due to loss of blood. Although looking weathered, a certain charisma emits from within him, retaining him as an attractive, fit young man.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Which Hero will it be to save Esordio?

Disoriented, the Lad balances himself using the tree. His eyes bounce left to right in question.

CHRONOS (V.O.)

You must leave the forest at once.

The Lad searches for the source of the voice...

CHRONOS (V.O.)

A danger lurks here! Find your sword. Follow my voice. Run!

The Lad sees the sword. He limps towards it, struggling to wrench it out of the dirt.

A LOW GROWL echoes. The Lad continues to struggle retrieving the sword. Suddenly, a BODY OF FOG rushes towards the Lad as he finally tugs the sword out of the ground and falls flat on his back.

He looks back. The body of fog circles its way back towards him...

With agile might, the Lad slashes through the fog, dissipating it as a thunderous noise ROARS. The fog reforms to reveal A DARK FORCE WITH GLOOMING PURPLE EYES.

CHRONOS (V.O.)

Run!

The Lad obeys. The creature observes. As it saunters forward, it seemingly disappears with the fog - an evanescent being.

A HOWL fills the night as the clouds temporarily unveil a FULL ${\tt MOON.}$

Thunder RUMBLES in the sky. A storm is coming.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF THE FOREST (NEAR VILLAGE) - LATER

The storm elevates to thunder and lightning. A deluge of water rushes the ground. The Lad struggles to remain conscious, using the sword for balance. A LOW GROWL stalks him - an ominous force concealed in the shadows.

The voice continues to guide the Lad:

CHRONOS (V.O.)

There's a village at the outskirts of the forest. Seek shelter there until you regain your strength.

Something rushes behind the Lad at blinding speed. The Lad faces back, ready to attack.

A pair of monstrous eyes SHADOWS behind him. He senses this. As he spins around, the creature morphs into a body of fog and bullets towards him! The Lad attempts to slice through the fog, but loses his footing, collapsing to the ground. The fog grazes a cut on his shoulder. A clear tear.

He struggles to regain balance. The creature returns, concealed within fog. Unable to retrieve his sword, the Lad faces up to see the fog engulf him when suddenly...his eyes FLARE. A SUDDEN BURST OF FLAMES repels the fog. The creature reforms. It appears to be a WOLF. Before the Lad can absorb this, the wolf vanishes.

> CHRONOS (V.O.) It'll return. You've used the last of your powers. Don't stand! Move your legs!

The Lad stands with his sword. He hurries to the outskirts of the forest. A village is seen beyond. As rain continues to pour down, he makes his way for the haven.

EXT./INT. VILLAGE - COTTAGE - LATER

The Lad knocks desperately whilst standing in the storm patient with faltering strength.

With a RATTLE AND CLATTER, the door finally swings open as he collapses onto the villager.

HIS EYES BLAZE.

INT. ARC BETWEEN WORLDS - FLASHBACK

The Lad falls through a vortex surrounded by lightning. Sporadic flashes strike him away!

END FLASHBACK

BACK TO PRESENT

The fire in the Lad's eyes pales. He winces back to reality, weak but determined to remain standing. He retches as something slides inside his throat...until he fails to withhold it. With a breath, he exhales a STREAM OF GOLD DUST. It rises...

Having used the last of his energy, everything he sees BLURS.

And off his unconsciousness --

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

VOLUME ONE

FADE IN:

INT. KING'S PALACE - SECELIA'S CHAMBERS - MORNING

A luxurious room filled by exquisite taste - paintings, rare artifacts, etc. It all surrounds a magnificent bed fit for a princess.

A disheveled Secelia sits up in daze. Her eyes passively gaze through the window, to the rain.

She BLINKS. OPEN - rain continues to pour. Slowly, a SHRILL TONE resonates with her. Her eyes SNAP close. OPEN - the window CRACKS as THUNDER BOOMS. SNAP. OPEN - the skies go black. SNAP. OPEN - a RED GLOW warmly shines on her face. SNAP. OPEN - the window suddenly SHATTERS towards her! Her eyes FLARE --

-- EVERYTHING SLOWS.

FLASH-FORWARD

We jump into Secelia's P.O.V. as we navigate through the paralyzed SHATTERED GLASS, out of her room, and into the cobblestone square of the Main Court.

Time remains frozen as our surroundings shift from towering buildings into FALLEN RUBBLE. The still rain becomes tainted by BLOOD. FIRE IGNITES to reveal SHADOWS OF UNWORLDLY CREATURES.

Amidst the ruins, a single GAUNTLET rises from the debris. It latches on to a LEVITATING FIGURE, who bears a striking resemblance to the Young Lad from the forest.

A DEAFENING thud emerges from the distance. BOOM - rain falls once again. BOOM - we are lurched back to Secelia's room. BOOM the glass shards regain life as they RESTORE themselves into the window! BOOM - the flare in Secelia's eyes FADE. BOOM --

END FLASH-FORWARD

BACK TO PRESENT

-- Secelia jolts back to reality, just as she witnesses the CRACK IN THE WINDOW vanish.

GAWAIN (O.S.)

Secelia? Are you awake?

Secelia's pupils dilate. She leaps out of bed and inspects the window. Was everything she saw real?

EXT. SECELIA'S CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

GAWAIN

VOLUME ONE

Is everything alright in there?

There is no reply from within the room. Gawain reaches for his sword...

The door abruptly swings open to reveal a smiling Secelia!

SECELIA

Jolly!

Gawain invites himself in.

GAWATN

You seem quite happy this morning.

SECELIA

A bit tired though.

GAWAIN

I expected so. Did you at least attempt to receive adequate rest?

SECELIA

No, I've been awake with my thoughts.

GAWAIN

Have you? How do you maintain being energetic?

SECELIA

Natural adrenaline I'm assuming. So what brings you by?

GAWAIN

Business. I've brought you a list of today's activities.

SECELIA

"Activities"? You mean the boring duties?

GAWAIN

No, "activities" - duties you're supposed to do.

SECELIA

And it's your duty to see to it I accomplish my "activities"? Can't I scout terrains or train with you instead?

"NEO"

GAWAIN

Your current duties as princess requires political insight and assistance to the king.

SECELIA

All we've been doing is political! I'd very much enjoy wielding a sword. To be a swashbuckling heroine with blades that can eviscerate any foe!

GAWAIN

You've spent an awful lot of time with your imagination.

SECELIA

Well, I've spent an awful lot of time in my chambers.

GAWAIN

You can't always rely on your father to handle everything in the kingdom. He is but one man.

SECELIA

He is a god to the people, Gawain.

GAWAIN

Divine right, Secelia. And it is by divine right that you inherit the crown.

SECELIA

I would gladly accept any crown but his. The people are being dwindled of their property, their money-- food even! Our people, Gawain, are starving while we enjoy festivities within the castle. If my duties are to further drain this kingdom of its prosperity, then--

Gawain hushes Secelia.

GAWAIN

Please understand, princess, that I <u>must</u> see to it that you tend to your responsibilities.

SECELIA

You can have the day off. Go train.

GAWATN

It's pouring.

SECELIA

VOLUME ONE

Assist my father.

GAWAIN

He's in a private meeting.

SECELIA

Then go occupy yourself in the Royal Library!

GAWAIN

I need the king's permission. That's why it's called the "Royal Library".

SECELIA

I'm royalty. You have my permission.

GAWAIN

But you're not the king.

SECELIA

Oh! For Esordio's sake, Gawain, just leave me alone! Please.

She leaps onto her bed, flops on her belly, and kicks around her sheets in frustration.

GAWAIN

I sense that you're upset?

Secelia steals a glance to the window. Gawain notices, taking initiative to examine the outside world.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

There's a storm this morning.

SECELIA

Clearly.

GAWAIN

Does it bother you?

SECELIA

Gawain, the nightmares I've been having...

GAWAIN

They've been making you restless, perhaps even a bit (searching for a word)

Troubled--

SECELIA

--No. With each nightmare, it becomes it feels - more real than before. I think I may be delusional, but all these repetitive... Visions come to me like a message.

GAWAIN

What is the message?

SECELIA

One I don't like, Gawain. It terrifies me-- and this storm, it feels different. Malevolent in nature...

GAWATN

When are storms not "malevolent"? If you think yourself delusional, then I think you've finally lost it. Now, give yourself a pat on the head for your creative demons, and get ready. If you want to properly serve the kingdom, then you must become queen, but before you can achieve the throne, you must first complete your role as a princess.

SECELIA

(reluctantly)

Very well.

Gawain reveals a SCROLL to Secelia. He opens it.

GAWAIN

After you have breakfast, you have an appointment with a painter, who has the honor to, well, paint you a portrait. Then you have a meeting with some townsfolk who are quarreling over land--

SECELTA

--Shouldn't my father be listening to that?

GAWAIN

The king believes you should begin to handle legal matters after all you've done.

Secelia buries her head into a pillow.

From the distance, a BIRD flutters around... Until it SMASHES into the window! Secelia faces up to see --

-- A CRACK IN THE WINDOW.

SECELIA

What was that?

GAWAIN

A bird flew into your window. Poor thing; couldn't see.

(feeling the crack)

Hopefully, your window won't shatter from this. We'll try to replace it by tomorrow.

(searching the scroll)
Now, moving on, at noon, during your
lunch, and possibly into early
evening, you will be hearing a
proposal regarding the tax on the
Kingdom of Vestrill. Afterwards,
you'll be introduced to your new
tailor. Hopefully, you'll have no
problems with this one, seeing how you
almost tossed the previous one out the
window.

Secelia becomes oblivious of Gawain, his voice fading away, as her eyes fill with anxiety. She stares at the fracture. It's the exact rift in the window as the one she saw in her vision...

INT. COTTAGE - CONTINUOUS

The Young Lad from earlier in the vortex, and from the forest, lies unconscious near a fireplace. A voice whispers:

CHRONOS (V.O.)

Andros, wake up!

With a shrill shriek, the Lad jolts awake! He faces the fireplace, then spins around in confusion to be faced with ETHAN KALLIAS, a young boy who continues to stare creepily at the Lad.

The Lad reacts to Ethan with a scream! He falls flat on his tush and scrambles to his feet. The Lad stumbles around aimlessly, approaching a table. He inadvertently knocks down a vase. As it falls, the Lad's eyes BLAZE --

-- TIME SLOWS AS THE VASE'S FALL LOSES SPEED.

ETHAN

How'd you do that?!

YOUNG TAD

Aaahh! Who?! Whaa-where?! When?! Why?!

Startled, the Lad loses focus - the spell breaks and the vase SHATTERS.

YOUNG LAD (CONT'D)

Do not scare me! Who are you?! Where am I?!

(off Ethan's glare)

And why are you staring at me?! Stop it; it's creepy! Oh, oh, wait! Don't move! Keep your eyes open!

ETHAN

Why?! Is something wrong?!

YOUNG LAD

Oh yes, indeed. Could you tilt your head slightly...

(directing him into the

light)

Here? Yes, good, into the light. Excellent! Now, it's very important that you do not close your eyes even for a second! Do you understand?

Ethan nods compliantly.

YOUNG LAD (CONT'D)

What's your name, boy?

ETHAN

Ethan, sir. Ethan Kallias.

YOUNG LAD

You have magnificent blue eyes, Ethan.

ETHAN

Um...

YOUNG LAD

Shhh sh sh sh! It's alright. Nothing's wrong. Your eyes are a convex receiver of light that directly displays your vision. And if others look close enough, they can see what you perceive.

ETHAN

What?

YOUNG LAD

Your eyes reflect my image. What?! Is one of my eyebrows burned?!

ETHAN

That's it? You couldn't have asked me instead?

YOUNG LAD

Ask?! No! Asking is too simple. Simple is boring. I'd wager more on a varied perception than one everyone else shares! And I'll tell you what, I saw beyond your perception. Aren't you scared? A strange man in your home, commenting on your magnificent eyes. You're more curious than scared, so tell me, what do you want to know?

ETHAN

You're stranger than most people. Who are you?

YOUNG LAD

I don't know.

ETHAN

Where are you from?

YOUNG LAD

(slowly realizing his

problem)

I don't know.

ETHAN

Do you have a name?

YOUNG LAD

I don't know.

ETHAN

YOUNG LAD

Friends? A family? What are you I don't know! I don't know! I then?

don't know! I don't know!!! STOP! Your questions are burning my mind!!!

A beat. Ethan processes this.

ETHAN

Why?

YOUNG LAD

GAHHH! More questions!

ETHAN

But I--

YOUNG LAD

Shh!

ETHAN

But you said--

YOUNG LAD

Shh! Shut up! Don't breathe. GAH! I don't know what I'm saying. You can breathe. J-just shut up Ethan! I don't remember! There was this storm and lightning and a vanishing wolf and a voice in my head.

ETHAN

Ohhh! I think you stumbled upon certain herbs in the forest, sir. You're not the first though.

YOUNG LAD

What?! No! No! It was all real, I'm certain. The voice in my head. It led me here to your home.

CHRONOS (V.O.)

The sword. It may help your memory.

YOUNG LAD

There goes the voice again! Can't you hear it?

ETHAN

No...What did it say?

The Lad remembers a detail:

YOUNG LAD

The sword. I had a sword! Where is it?

Ethan signals to an area beside the fireplace. The Lad retrieves his sword. He scrutinizes its contents. At the hilt, a name is engraved: "ANDROS ALSONT".

YOUNG LAD (CONT'D)

There's a name on this sword: Andros Alsont. The voice in my head told me to check.

Ethan is unsure how to react.

YOUNG LAD (CONT'D)

If this is my sword, then it's safe to assume that my name is... Andros Alsont.

As the Lad continues to examine the blade, Ethan's Dad, a man in his forties, stumbles into the room.

ETHAN'S DAD

Ethan!

ETHAN

Father! You're back early.

Surprised, the Lad twirls around, gripping onto his sword, and once again, unintentionally knocks over various objects! The Lad's eyes FLARE. TIME SLOWS.

ETHAN'S DAD

You! How are you doing that?

YOUNG LAD

Shh! Can't you see I'm trying to focus?! Unless you want me to break another vase, shush!

ETHAN'S DAD

Another vas--?

YOUNG LAD

Shh!

ETHAN'S DAD

Ethan, who is this man?!

YOUNG LAD

Shhhhhhhh!

(feels something)

Does anyone else feel a sensation to urinate?

Ethan's Dad forms a fist. The Lad carefully retrieves the objects paralyzed in time.

ETHAN'S DAD

Ethan, stay away from this man.

YOUNG LAD

Worry not! I do know how to properly to dispel my liquids.

ETHAN

The man came to our house at night, father. I couldn't leave him out in the rain!

ETHAN'S DAD

Well that was a mistake. He should've been left out there.

Andros registers the seriousness Ethan's Dad conveys. He catches his mistake.

VOLUME ONE

ANDROS

Wait, my apologies. Thoughts are spiraling about my mind and it's so hard to focus with all these voices in my head. My name is Andros Alsont.

ETHAN'S DAD

What are you?

ANDROS

My name is Andros, sir.

ETHAN'S DAD

Not your name - your race!

ANDROS

Excuse me? Am I going to be subjected to slavery?

ETHAN'S DAD

You're not human! What are you?!

ANDROS

(pulling his own cheeks)

It's all but flesh and bone; I'm human!

ETHAN'S DAD

No! No human could have done that.

You're a

(a realization)

A demon!

BLINK. BLINK. Andros cannot process this.

ANDROS

Sorry, what?

ETHAN'S DAD

How else could you have accomplished that feat?!

ANDROS

I-I don't know. Can't you do it too? Don't you hear the voice?! Perhaps you have to praise to it? Um PUH-RAISE THE VOICE! Not working for you?

Ethan's Dad grabs a FIRE IRON and launches it at Andros! A deafening ring PULSATES from it as Andros' eyes BURN.

THE INCOMING OBJECT SLOWS!

Andros examines the fire iron as it continues to spiral forth. Everyone, including Andros, is astonished by this. Suddenly, the spell breaks, and the fire iron jabs into the nearest wall! It misses Andros by an inch!

ETHAN'S DAD

Demon!

ANDROS

Wait, wait, sir! I'm sure there's an explanation for this. Your son was just offering tea. Perhaps if we take up the offer upon ourselves, it'll allow us to think clearly - don't you think?!

EXT. COTTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Andros now stands outside the cottage, in the pouring rain. The door slams shut in his face.

ANDROS

Perhaps not.

Andros spits out water. He's completely drenched!

The door swings open as the sword is tossed out! Andros lets out a SHRIEK as he catches it by the hilt. In a blink of an eye, the door slams shut again.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Thank you!

Andros peers up to the sky in question. FLASHES OF LIGHT answer. Thunder RUMBLES. He turns to the forest.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Why can't I remember anything? And what do you have to do with me...?

As Andros ventures off, the door of the cottage opens once again. Ethan spies. He looks back at his dad, then out into the open. He dashes off to Andros!

INT. WORLD OF STARDUST - STREET - CONTINUOUS

A hail storm pours on the streets of Stardust, a steampunkesque world. We recognize a landmark - the clock tower - from earlier; in the background. Smoke rises from nearby factories. Above, a vortex spirals. The Cloaked Figure from earlier in the tavern tramps across the clamorous street, where an influx of beggars and vagrants reside. A BEGGAR kneels before the Cloaked Figure.

BEGGAR

Please! Spare me some killets!

IN A FLASH - the figure unsheathes his sword and presses its edge against the Beggar's neck.

CLOAKED FIGURE

And what would you spend it on? Another day in the tavern? Your life has been reduced to begging; I'd be doing a favor by ending it.

BEGGAR

Not all of us beggars are filth as you would think!

The Beggar grabs the figure's sword and sets an aim for his own throat.

BEGGAR (CONT'D)

If you are set in your beliefs and none can sway you to change, then kill me. I used to work as a merchant. Served for the King of Stardust himself!

CLOAKED FIGURE

How were you reduced to this then?

BEGGAR

It was the crown's doing. I was accused of smuggling treasures out of the palace. I was set for execution, but I escaped. Now I'm nothing.

The Cloaked Figure withdraws his sword. From his belt, he retrieves a BAG. It JINGLES with coins. He tosses it to the Beggar.

CLOAKED FIGURE

Keep it. It's all yours. The royals can be selfish fools.

He saunters away. The Beggar watches.

BEGGAR

Wait! I've seen you before!

The Cloaked Figure halts his steps in caution. He's been discovered.

BEGGAR (CONT'D)

You're him aren't you? Where are you qoing?

VOLUME ONE

CLOAKED FIGURE

(gravely)

I'm leaving Stardust.

BEGGAR

You're abandoning us? Now? Haven't you seen the signs? We need you!

CLOAKED FIGURE

I'm not abandoning you; there's simply nothing I can do to save this world.

BEGGAR

This world will die by ice. The hail...

CLOAKED FIGURE

I know. I'm sorry. But I've found another, and his world will die by fire. I can help him save it, and perhaps after, he can help save us.

BEGGAR

Neo have mercy...

CLOAKED FIGURE

This is Neo's doing.

The Cloaked Figure faces the Beggar.

CLOAKED FIGURE (CONT'D)

You won't tell anyone of my leave?

BEGGAR

I must. The people must leave immediately.

CLOAKED FIGURE

It would not be wise to that; if people were to discover that destruction was imminent, and none can be saved, then there will only be utter chaos. Without hope. I will ensure your mouth remains shut.

BEGGAR

There are people here!

CLOAKED FIGURE

People - humans are the worst monsters. They can be uncaring of what happens to their own kind. They will turn their faces so as to ensure they saw nothing.

BEGGAR

The people deserve to know. How many lives are at stake here?! Please. At least save the children! You are part of the crown! You should know better, 7a--

The Cloaked Figure's eyes LUSTER BLUE. Ice traps the Beggar's legs. It steadily grows.

CLOAKED FIGURE

Know when to shut up! Do not mention my name. What I am asking is not negotiable. When you truly agree, the ice will melt; if not... (beat)

Make peace with your demons.

The Cloaked Figure spins around. He walks away.

BEGGAR

All the crown does is bribe and lie to its people. You're killing us all! (the ice now reaches his shoulders)

You're a coward!

CLOAKED FIGURE

I'm anything but a coward.

BEGGAR

Then stop running!

The figure has nothing to say for this. He stops for a beat, tempted to turn back. But he walks away.

BEGGAR (CONT'D)

Cowa--

The ice covers the Beggar completely. Now, he's simply a frozen sculpture!

A LIGHTNING FLASH BLINDS US!

EXT. KING'S PALACE - ESTABLISHING - CONTINUOUS

SPORADIC FLASHES in the clouds.

A citadel towers on a hill, isolating itself from the rest of the kingdom. It dominates the land.

INT. KING'S PALACE - CORRIDOR - AFTERNOON

A corridor stretched between the East Wing and West Wing of the castle arcs over the Main Court below. Secelia and Gawain stride across.

GAWAIN

I didn't expect the hearing to be so long. We're behind schedule for the meeting.

SECELIA

The meeting?

GAWAIN

The tax proposal.

SECELIA

Oh, of course. Gawain, this is tiresome.

GAWAIN

You are a princess. Believe me, you have every right to complain, but the kingdom of Vestrill is facing troubling times.

Secelia stops abruptly. She stares out into the Main Court.

SECELIA

No, I mean, life.

GAWAIN

What? Princess Secelia, if you are pondering whether you should leap off of here, then you are gravely mistaken to believe I'd let you.

SECELIA

No, I wouldn't. That would decimate your ego among the royal court. What I mean is, today, out of many days, feels different. It invokes the same vibes as I felt in my nightmares.

GAWAIN

You believe something is to occur?

SECELIA

I don't know.

GAWAIN

VOLUME ONE

You have no time to be ruminating over this storm, Secelia. You have duties to tend to, and you are behind on them. Now, you must go meet with several merchants about the tariff. I'm aware that this is your first business meeting on taxes and you may be nervous, but remember that the goal the king wants is...

(noticing Secelia's daze) Secelia, are you listening?

Secelia gazes into the rain.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Secelia!

SECELIA

(snapping)

Yes, Gawain?

Gawain peers up to the grey sky. Clouds double up as lightning FLASHES. Thunder BOOMS. The storm worsens - a vortex begins to spiral above.

GAWATN

Okay, tell me. What about this storm has you so frightened?

SECELIA

It seems so familiar; I don't know. It invokes a feeling of death and hollowness - the end. Gawain, it's difficult to comprehend. It's like--

MULTIPLE LIGHTNING BOLTS suddenly strike into the center of the Main Court! Smoke rises from the burnt ground...

Spooked villagers exit their homes to investigate. Gawain and Secelia see this.

GAWATN

(to the villagers) Oi! Step away from there!

The sky ROARS with thunder. Secelia faces up to see a RIFT in the sky. The vortex SPIRALS within.

SECELIA

Gawain, something's happening. We have to leave!

ESORDIAN LEGENDS VOLUME ONE "NEO" 3/21/2015 30.

GAWAIN

Nothing's happening.

SECELIA

No. It's starting!

GAWAIN

What is?

She hesitates.

SECELIA

The end of the world.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. FOREST - DEEP WOODS - AFTERNOON

Andros follows a trail in the deep woods as rain drizzles ferociously. A voice from beyond calls to him:

VOLUME ONE

CHRONOS (V.O.)

Andros! Leave the forest.

FOREST CLEARING

Andros dashes out into the open, where he sees a TREE STUMP. He hops onto it as he cranes around! He whirls towards the left. The right. The source of the voice is unfathomable.

ANDROS

I thought I was bonkers, you know, hearing a voice in my head, but I know you're real. I can hear you clearly. Where are you? How are you speaking with me?

CHRONOS (V.O.)

You're challenging time when danger lurks here.

ANDROS

The only danger here is a man screaming at a voice in his head! Do you know how many animals I'm scaring away right now?

Andros eyes a bunny. It hopes away in retreat. But it's not retreating from Andros. What Andros does not see is a SNAKE inches away from the bunny. The snake circles around its own tail and begins to engulf it. Andros may briefly notice this.

CHRONOS (V.O.)

Do you know where you really are?

ANDROS

I'm in a forest. Now shush, I've got questions of my own. Who are you? Why are you in my head?

CHRONOS (V.O.)

I am curious about you and your abilities. I'm assisting the best I can.

ANDROS

If you really want to help me, then tell me: Who are you?

VOLUME ONE

Ethan hides behind a tree. He spies in on the conversation Andros is seemingly having with himself.

Suddenly, light gathers into an ORB. It scrutinizes Andros.

CHRONOS (V.O.)

You may call me "Chronos".

ANDROS

Chronos.

(beat)

Yes, that name seems familiar.

CHRONOS

Where is your gauntlet?

ANDROS

What gauntlet?

CHRONOS (V.O.)

The source of your powers. Where is it?

ANDROS

I don't know! I don't remember anything!

CHRONOS (V.O.)

You <u>need</u> to remember, Andros! I need you to!

ANDROS

Why?

CHRONOS (V.O.)

The truth from the past lies in the gauntlet. Find the gauntlet! Or my truth, along with yours, will perish with the end of this world. The gauntlet is our's - and this world's salvation.

With that, the orb dissipates to nothing.

ANDROS

Wait! What do you know of me?

He waits for an answer. Nothing.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Please! I need to know more! What gauntlet? What power? Who am I?! Why can't I remember?!

VOLUME ONE

Ethan observes this. He leans in for a closer inspection...

Andros twirls around and falls his tush flat on the tree stump. Shoulders loosened. Faced down. He's miserable.

Ethan coughs copiously. Andros catches this. He faces up--

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Ethan! You shouldn't be out here! It's raining! And it's cold! And it's raining!

Ethan dashes to Andros' side.

ETHAN

You're out here!

ANDROS

I have a reason to be out here.

ETHAN

What reason?

ANDROS

I'm a mad man.

ETHAN

Um who were you talking to earlier?

ANDROS

The voice in my head. It never stops demanding things. "Leave the forest, Andros." "Find your gauntlet, Andros." "Wake up, Andros". Andros, Andros, Andros - do this, do that. How does it expect me to do anything when I don't even know anything about it? I don't even know if it has a favorite color, you know, if it truly exists and I've not gone mad.

This draws a blank from Ethan. He shivers. Andros notices.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Stupid me. I'm rambling about a voice in my head and you're shivering out here.

ETHAN

VOLUME ONE

It's no problem, sir, really. I'm used to the cold. My father would have me watch our sheep all night, even when it rains. Once, my father was so mad at me that he too \bar{k} my clothing and left me out in the rain with nothing!

As Ethan continues to talk, a LOW GROWL slowly grows.

ANDROS

Wait, shh! Sh! Do you hear that?

Ethan falls silent. He hears it too.

ETHAN

What is it?

ANDROS

An animal. It sounds hungry. Big. Bad.

ETHAN

Wolf.

ANDROS

What did you say?

ETHAN

I think that's a wolf!

ANDROS

A wolf...

This worries Andros...

ANDROS (CONT'D)

The rain is worsening. Let's search for some shelter.

A lone set of eyes GLOOMS in the shadows beyond.

EXT./INT. KING'S PALACE - BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

King ALKRIX DRAKUS, a strong, powerful warrior in his earlyforties, stands on a balcony that dominates the Main Court.

For a moment, we see a glimpse of his RING. It resembles the OUROBOROS - the self-consuming serpent.

King Alkrix observes the inquisitive crowd below.

CHRONOS (O.C.)

Breathing while you still can, my liege? No air fresher than during a storm.

ALKRIX

The storm has caused quite the stir.

CHRONOS (O.C.)

Well, your world is dying.

Alkrix pivots back to a figure in the shadows.

ALKRIX

But our young Hero can save it, thanks to you, (beat)

Chronos.

The figure steps out...and finally, meet CHRONOS: A dashing man dressed in royal attire - gold and white colors. He wears a similar RING as the king's.

CHRONOS

I have re-delivered him to you, but his condition is worse than I expected. I tried to salvage his memories, but he's still in the process.

ALKRIX

The process of ...?

CHRONOS

His memories are being released. It was a pain, but if done correctly, Andros should be able to recollect his memories.

ALKRIX

How?

CHRONOS

They'll achieve physical form, but most likely scattered among Esordio. Andros would have to embark on a journey to collect them, now wouldn't he?

ALKRIX

And, Chronos, his state of powers?

CHRONOS

VOLUME ONE

They're in recovery. But his gauntlet is lost.

ALKRIX

It's lost?! How does the boy lose it?! The Crimson Gauntlet is linked with him. It takes an imbecile to lose such a prestigious weapon!

CHRONOS

He might as well be one, but he's flustered. Falling from the vortex, breaking dimension barriers, releasing his memories - from the moment he regained conscious, all the thoughts he had in his entire life came back in a single rush. How do you think that would feel? And I wouldn't be so kind if I didn't remind you that you were the one who sent us into our deaths. If it weren't for me, we'd all be dead already, Alkrix.

(off Alkrix's stern expression)

King Alkrix.

ALKRIX

Then what is to happen now?

CHRONOS

Your plan continues. I assure you. If Andros is able to moderate himself and regain his senses, then I can reset this world using his power.

ALKRIX

How will I know when it finishes?

CHRONOS

Ah, that...

Chronos indicates at Alkrix's ring.

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

If this glows, then you'll know.

ALKRIX

What if I die before the ...?

CHRONOS

Reset.

(beat)

(MORE)

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

We're both curious to find out, aren't we? Maybe then you'll shed some light about my relation to the boy.

ALKRIX

As I've said, he can be deceptive. He's lied to you!

CHRONOS

He doesn't even remember of our little experiment. We'll see once he's collected his memories.

The Ouroboros' eyes from Chronos' ring SHADOW PURPLE.

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

Oh, look at that. You're about to experience your very first meeting with the Order of Neos.

ATIKRTX

Am I a member for certain now?

CHRONOS

You're a valuable resource to us, Alkrix.

ALKRIX

But all I am to you is a tool. This amuses you.

CHRONOS

Well, you're only human. And we're not very trusting of your kind yet.

ALKRIX

And I seek to change that.

CHRONOS

Ambitious. But we move in opposite directions.

ALKRIX

Yet we share a common goal. I found you first, Chronos. I introduced you to the boy. And we made a discovery.

CHRONOS

Rest assured, if you do not prove your worth to the Order - and personally - if you have been deceiving me, I will not hesitate to kill you utilizing the most brutal methods.

ALKRIX

I'm confident we won't come to that, Chronos. Thanks to you, we have collected the first gauntlet, along with its Hero. Only two remain.

CHRONOS

Very well then. In the pride of the Ouroboros...

ALKRIX/CHRONOS

Neo shall reawaken.

INT. FOREST - CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Ethan and Andros rest in a cave. Both SHIVER as they gaze into the rain.

ANDROS

Wouldn't your father be worried about you?

ETHAN

He doesn't care. He's the village drunk; spends all his time in the tavern.

ANDROS

And you decided to run away with a stranger?

ETHAN

Is that weird?

ANDROS

No. It's creepy.

An awkward pause.

ETHAN

Um how does it feel? To not remember?

ANDROS

I don't know; I suppose it's different for everyone. For me, the world becomes unsaturated and I see things for what they truly are.

ETHAN

I don't understand.

ANDROS

What do you see in that tree over there?

Ethan shrugs.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

To our eyes, it is a tree. To nature's creatures, it is a home. And how this storm may seem destructive to us, it can also be the tree's survival. However, that's not what this storm is for. It is this world's tears and roars of agony.

ETHAN

VOLUME ONE

Do you see anything about me?

ANDROS

You're like me. Lost and confused with our being, ambiguous in our decisions, yet we long for more - out there. And hope we're part of a much bigger plan.

ETHAN

To be a hero.

ANDROS

I think, to be a hero, you'd have to first experience the world and embark on many adventures. How many adventures have you been on, Ethan?

ETHAN

Not enough.

ANDROS

But your dreams are big. Perhaps big enough to one day be fulfilled.

ETHAN

What's your dream, Andros?

ANDROS

I don't remember if I have any. But I'm curious to learn. A part of me knows there's more out there; more than this life here. A life of endless adventures.

ETHAN

Followed by a life of endless dangers.

ANDROS

That's what will make it fun!

He turns to Ethan with a brotherly smile.

ETHAN

I used to cry "wolf" back at the village, knowing there was no real wolf.

ANDROS

Why?

ETHAN

For an adventure. The villagers hate me for it!

ANDROS

Ethan, how old are you?

ETHAN

I'm thirteen, sir.

ANDROS

Thirteen. And you're already known as (beat - as if it seems familiar)

"The boy who cried wolf". That's quite the infamous reputation...

EXT. MAIN COURT - CONTINUOUS

An eager and curious CROWD is gathered in a large cobblestone square at the heart of Vestrill.

Secelia's eagerness to see the spectacle everyone's absorbed into forces her to crane for a better view. Gawain shadows her.

GAWAIN

Secelia! What do you mean it's the end of the world?!

Secelia does not stop.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Princess! I demand you stop this nonsense and return to attend your meeting. Taxes are a very important matter!

SECELIA

Aren't you at the least curious? If it was dangerous, the Main Court would be piled with bodies.

GAWAIN

What are you afraid of, Secelia?! Your imagination is clashing with reality!

SECELIA

It's my nightmares, Gawain! They're happening.

GAWAIN

How?

SECELIA

I don't know! They weren't nightmares tormented by demons.

GAWAIN

Okay, let's consider that. How would we stop whatever's happening?

SECELIA

I have visions, not solutions!

GAWAIN

Well what do you suggest we do then?

SECELIA

What are these people drawn to?

GAWAIN

If you must see...

Gawain searches for a way. He drags Secelia into the crowd. They both push their way to the front, where they see...

A BURNED MARK WHERE THE LIGHTNING HIT.

SECELIA

Gawain, what is that?

Gawain and Secelia peer down at the spectacle --

-- and upon a closer look, the BURNED MARK is the symbol of the OUROBOROS.

GAWAIN

The Ouroboros.

SECELIA

What is it?

GAWAIN

It's a serpent that consumes its own tail. It symbolizes a new beginning. But why is it here? The Ouroboros marks where the lightning hit, but that's--

SECELIA

-- That's impossible. It couldn't have been there before.

GAWAIN

Unless, of course, the lightning...

SECELIA

Gawain, we need to return to the castle.

GAWAIN

Why? Don't you want to further--

SECELIA

-- Now. It's not safe out here. The skies cry for this world's end...

Gawain obeys. He follows Secelia back to the castle.

INT. FOREST - CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Ethan dozes off. Andros remains vigilant. A LOW GROWL echoes in the cave.

ANDROS

Ethan! Ethan!!!

Ethan jolts awake.

ETHAN

What?

ANDROS

Do you hear that?

ETHAN

I was asleep.

ANDROS

Shh! Listen.

The growl reverberates in the distance. Behind Andros and Ethan...

ETHAN

It's coming from inside.

ANDROS

Could it be a wolf?

ETHAN

Maybe.

ANDROS

Maybe? I need you to be sure, Ethan. It could be the same wolf from the forest.

ETHAN

The same? As in it followed us?

A THICK FOG rolls in. It engulfs Ethan and Andros; everything around them is a gray, impenetrable wall of fog.

ANDROS

I think it did.

ETHAN

How do you know?

ANDROS

Because this is no ordinary wolf. Stay close.

Within the fog, a pair of eyes GLOOMS.

ETHAN

By Neo's blood, what is that?!

Andros cautiously reaches for his sword.

ANDROS

Don't. Move. Don't even breathe. When I tell you to do so - run!

The GLOWING EYES navigate through the fog. It saunters toward Ethan. Andros observes this. He unsheathes his sword and thrusts it towards the eyes!

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Run!

Ethan dashes out of the cave. The eyes vanish. The fog swirls around as it forms into a wolf! Andros delivers a fury of slashes! But the cuts only phase through - the wolf, unaffected.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

What are you?!

The wolf SNARLS at him.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Good wolf. You're a good wolf.

The wolf advances towards him.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Bad wolf! Bad wolf!

The wolf POUNCES at the Andros and, before Andros can react, it passes through him like he's nothing! It's as if the wolf were a ghost!

Andros pivots around to the wolf to see it chase after Ethan. It seems to only be focused on Ethan.

Andros runs to Ethan's rescue!

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Ethan! Keep running!

INT. FOREST - FARTHER IN - CONTINUOUS

Ethan runs with complete fright, but he's just running, he's not looking. He suddenly trips and face-plants into the dirt.

The GROWL closes in. He glints around, having no idea what to do...

Helpless, Ethan cowers behind a tree. Andros yells in the distance:

ANDROS (O.S.)

Run Ethan! Don't stop!

As Ethan breathes heavily, we can hear his heart POUNDING. THUMP-THUMP. His eyes SNAP close. A hand reaches for him as his eyes FLASH open. It's just Andros.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Ethan, you're alright! Don't worry.

ETHAN

What is that, Andros?

ANDROS

I don't know, but I will keep you safe.

In the distance, the wolf POUNCES out of nowhere! Ethan is the first to see.

ETHAN

Andros! The wolf!

Andros sees this.

ANDROS

Get up! Run! Run!

FOREST CLEARING

They reach a clearing. In the background, the wolf JUMPS and POOF! Vanishes into fog. It reappears inches away from Ethan! Andros darts towards them!

ANDROS

Ethan!

Ethan turns back. The wolf pounces onto him!

ANDROS (CONT'D)

No!

The wolf's eyes SHADOW.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Ethan! Are you alright?!

The wolf steps back, allowing Ethan to rise. The wolf speaks through Ethan in ANCIENT ESORDIAN.

WOLF

(a sonorous, distorted voice)
You have been marked. Awaken!

Ethan's eyes SHEEN back to the wolf in reaction. Andros slides to halt.

ANDROS

Ethan! Ethan!

(to the wolf)

What are you?!

WOLF

I am the guardian of this forest. The natural balance has been disturbed. The boy has been marked.

ANDROS

Speak the common tongue!

The wolf does not reply. Andros reaches a point of fury. His eyes FLARE demonically! It's as if another part of his conscious dominates him. His flesh begins to BURN.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Speak!

WOLF

The boy has been marked.

ANDROS

Marked for what?

WOLF

The natural balance has been disturbed. A sacrifice is necessary.

ANDROS

A sacrifice for what?!

WOLF

The rebirth of our god: Neo Esordio.

Andros' eyes continue to BLAZE intensely.

INT. ANCIENT RUINS - FLASHBACK

Andros plummets into an ancient ruins. The ruins is completely dominated by darkness. Andros' eyes FLARE. TORCHES along the wall BLAZES to life, creating a path.

Andros cautiously walks down the path of flames, until he comes upon a dusty wall. He brushes off the dust. He gazes at something we do not see with trembling eyes --

-- He stares at a gigantic, draconic OUROBOROS. It glares back with GLOOMING PURPLE EYES.

END OF FLASHBACK

BACK TO PRESENT

Andros recalls the symbol. He exhales a STREAM OF GOLD DUST.

WOLF

(a realization)

You are the fallen. You are a Guardian Spirit.

ANDROS

I don't know what I am but I remember seeing something: a dragon engulfing its own tail.

WOLF

The Ouroboros. It is the mark of a new beginning.

ANDROS

Why is the boy marked?

WOLF

He has been chosen.

ANDROS

Yes, but who chose him?

WOLF

Neo.

ANDROS

That doesn't make sense!

WOLF

Neo will be reborn. And it is Neo who ensures it. He will destroy us to achieve his creation.

Andros BLINKS. For a millisecond, he catches a glimpse of DARK FIGURE towering over the wolf. It turns to Andros. His eyes SHADOW purple. And he vanishes! Andros cannot register this. He shakes it off.

ANDROS

Let the boy go.

WOLF

His sacrifice will honor Neo.

ANDROS

Let. Him. Go.

WOLF

His death will not be in vain.

ANDROS

Let him go!!!

FLAMES are conjured from thin air! It traps the wolf in a circle of fire.

WOLF

This world will die by fire, Hero. And it will be your doing. You will kill this world. And Neo will kill you. Remember by heart: Neo is coming.

Andros glares into the wolf's pupils. His eyes BURN ferociously. The wolf's eye FLARE in reaction. It is now under Andros' control.

ANDROS

Kneel!

The wolf sits.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Release him!

Ethan falls unconscious as he collapses onto the ground! Andros releases the wolf from the trance. The fire in his eyes fades. His body recovers from the burns. He rushes to Ethan's aid.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Ethan! Ethan! Can you move?

ETHAN

I can talk. What happened?

ANDROS

I don't know! We have to run!

Ethan looks to the wolf to see it trapped in fire.

ETHAN

Whoa! Did you do that?

ANDROS

I don't know. Get up! We have to move!

The wolf observes. The moment Ethan stands, the wolf disperses into fog!

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Ethan, run! Call for help!

ETHAN

How?

ANDROS

Cry wolf.

ETHAN

That won't work! The villagers! They won't believe me!

ANDROS

It will work. Trust me. Run!

Ethan trembles. He's too scared to move!

ANDROS (CONT'D)

This is the time to be brave. Be the boy who cried wolf! Run!

Ethan darts off.

ETHAN

Wolf! Help! There's a wolf! Wolf! Wolf!!!

Andros bolts alongside Ethan. His hand rests on his sword ready for anything.

The wolf, concealed in a body of fog, glides past Andros and curves to a halt inches ahead of Ethan! The fog compiles to form the wolf.

ANDROS

Stay back!

Andros charges forth with his sword! His eyes FLARE. Flames encase the sword as he endeavors a fiery slash. The wolf SPEWS a mist, extinguishing the fire!

As the wolf pounces towards Ethan, Andros leaps to intercept! The wolf GROWLS as it penetrates through Andros, reforms itself, and lands directly in front of Ethan. Its eyes GLOOM once more and Ethan's eyes SHINE back in unison.

Andros collapses onto the ground. He clinches his chest in pain.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

No! Don't look into its eyes! Ethan! Ethan!

ETHAN

I have been marked. In the pride of the Ouroboros, I sacrifice myself to Neo Esordio!

IN A FLASH - SHARP. GLEAMING. FANGS.

IN A FLASH - The wolf rips Ethan apart.

Andros winces away in horror as Ethan screams in agony.

ANDROS

No!

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. FOREST - DEEP WOODS - NEAR EVENING

Lightning FLASHES. The storm rages on. Andros lays his back against a tree, accepting the rain on his face. He turns to the wolf.

ANDROS

VOLUME ONE

Why did you have to kill him?

WOLF

Sacrifices are necessary.

ANDROS

I don't understand you!

Chronos appears as a sphere of light.

CHRONOS (V.O.)

Andros! I warned you. The forest is dangerous. Do not involve yourself with the guardian.

ANDROS

Well where the bloody hell have you been?! If you had been with me while all this happened, Ethan could still be alive!

CHRONOS (V.O.)

I would have made no difference in the turn of events.

ANDROS

Every life and breath makes a difference!

CHRONOS (V.O.)

He's dead, Andros. You must leave.

ANDROS

(to the wolf)

Why couldn't you have taken me as sacrifice?

CHRONOS (V.O.)

Andros, avoid the guardian!

ANDROS

A guardian protects. This one killed.

Andros' eyes BURN reflectively with the wolf.

WOLF

And you are a Guardian Spirit. You will destroy this world, but what cannot be destroyed cannot be salvaged. Destruction is prime to creation and creation is at fault without destruction. There are multiple paths before you: one of a mad man, one of a good man, and one of a great man.

ANDROS

I don't understand!

WOLF

To reverse for rebirth, an answer must be found: I am bound to our Mother by the forces of nature. I can never meet with the golden light. But comes day converged in night and comes forth the ring of fire to sight. Only on this day can you reverse for rebirth.

ANDROS

Will that change this? Change everything?

CHRONOS (V.O.)

My power wanes in this form. I need you to find your gauntlet, Andros!

ANDROS

This wolf is connected. It has answers!

CHRONOS (V.O.)

It has riddles!

ANDROS

Why me? Why will I destroy this world?

WOLF

Destruction must be achieved for creation. For Neo. Come see...

Space bends into a SPIRALLING RIFT as the Wolf vanishes into the portal.

CHRONOS (V.O.)

Andros, don't follow it! I need you here! Andros! Andros!!!

Andros leaps into the rift! A BLINDING FLASH --

INT. KING'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

-- Chronos and Alkrix stride in from the balcony outside the throne room.

ALKRIX

What happened?

CHRONOS

Andros. He left this world.

ALKRIX

What?! Where did he go?

CHRONOS

There are infinite possibilities that can answer that question.

ALKRIX

So what of my plan now?

CHRONOS

Didn't you see the judgment of the Order during the meeting? It was all in their eyes. They all accept the plan as an alternative, but not you. Be cautious.

ALKRIX

I will do anything to protect Secelia from the Order. She was not born to die nor lives to be a mere sacrificial lamb.

CHRONOS

You involved yourself with the Order when you plead to me, remember? You offered truth of my existence before I was discovered by the Order. My truth lies with Andros' past, but with Andros gone, your daughter will be the only option to save Vestrill. You are too blinded by your vendetta with your demons to see that your daughter has been blessed with the Blood of Creation. This is her fate: to create a new beginning.

ALKRIX

An ill-fate for anyone. You once had a family too. You simply don't remember it. Or feel it.

(MORE)

ALKRIX (CONT'D)

If I am to die today, the last thing I would want to hear is of my daughter's doom. That is the bond of family. I care for her. I worry. Please, don't let her die.

CHRONOS

I'm no longer a sentient being. I cannot feel.

Suddenly, the floor RUMBLES and SHAKES. Alkrix balances himself while Chronos doesn't even flinch.

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

It's begun. Your world is ripping apart.

ALKRIX

You say Andros is our hope. Go find the boy!

And BOOM --

-- THE DOORS SLAM OPEN.

Chronos vanishes in an instant! And enter Secelia and Gawain in frenzy.

ALKRIX (CONT'D)

Secelia! What's wrong?!

SECELTA

Father, something's happening!

GAWAIN

She claims her nightmares are visions of the apocalypse. Though, I'm starting to believe in its plausibility.

ALKRIX

You told me those nightmares stopped!

SECELIA

I didn't want to worry you, but now, I'm scared...

ALKRIX

Gawain, why didn't you tell me of her condition?! I could've helped her!

GAWAIN

With all due respect, my liege, I thought they were merely dreams!

ALKRIX

Dreams are powerful. It transcends reality. It binds us to the existence of infinite possibilities and delivers us the thoughts and wishes that could never be fulfilled in our grasp of reality, but it also provides a passage to a higher power for some like Secelia.

SECELIA

Higher power? What are you talking about?

ALKRIX

Your dreams are scattered thoughts of reality. Not just our reality, but every existence. What you've seen now are of the events to come.

SECELIA

You knew of this? Why didn't you tell me?! You had me live thinking I've gone mad!

GAWAIN

Your Magnificence, why have you been trying to suppress it?

ALKRIX

Because there exists those who desire to sacrifice your power for a greater being. Please, I know this is a lot to hear and there is more to tell, but we are in a dire situation.

The palace SHAKES.

ALKRIX (CONT'D)

We have to leave!

The shaking intensifies! Everyone sinks to their feet. The floor CRACKS apart.

ALKRIX (CONT'D)

To my throne!

Alkrix takes hold of Secelia and rushes to the throne. Gawain rolls back to his feet and follows.

ALKRIX (CONT'D)

Gawain, help me push this!

Alkrix's throne slides with resistance and finally, it reveals a secret passage. The shaking ceases momentarily.

ALKRIX (CONT'D)

Keep running until the end and it'll lead you out of the castle! Go!

GAWAIN

My princess, you must hurry!

SECELIA

The earth is about to engulf us and you expect me to enter an underground passageway?!

GAWATN

This is not the time I can tolerate your obduracy!

SECELTA

Shut up Gawain! Listen...

Silence falls. The sound of a growing rumble emerges from the Main Court outside. Secelia approaches the window.

SECELIA (CONT'D)

Gawain, the storm...

GAWATN

"Malevolent in nature".

She peers out, upwards to the sky, to witness a raging, twirling vortex. Thunder rumbles. Suddenly, lightning STRIKES the window!

ALKRIX

Secelia!

Alkrix, quick to react, leaps towards Secelia and pushes her out of the path. The mirror SHATTERS into shards and slices through Alkrix! His legs crumple down and he collapses lifelessly.

> GAWAIN SECELIA

My king!

Father!

Gawain tends to Alkrix's wounds. Secelia kneels by his side.

GAWAIN

(to Secelia)

Don't touch him! He's severely injured. The shards are too deep inside him;

(MORE)

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

moving him can cause them to travel deeper and puncture an organ.

ALKRIX

Gawain, you have to find somewhere safe for her. Run...

GAWAIN

I'm sorry.

SECELIA

No! Gawain, we can't leave him!

ALKRIX

Secelia, it's alright, I must tell you something child...

He signals her to come closer.

ALKRIX (CONT'D)

(a slow, dying breath)

Run from the serpent that consumes its own tail. Beware the big, bad wolf... Neo is coming.

SECELIA

What does that mean?!

Alkrix struggles with life, but his last breath slips out.

SECELIA (CONT'D)

Father! Father! NO!!! Please!

GAWAIN

Secelia! We have to go!

SECELIA

Where Gawain?! Nowhere is safe!

The ground trembles lightly.

GAWAIN

Secelia...

Suddenly, the ground rises with a shudder! Gawain and Secelia are thrown to opposite sides of the room!

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Secelia, are you hurt?!

SECELIA

No! I'm fine!

VOLUME ONE

GAWAIN

Stay there! Don't move!

Gawain forces himself up. He flinches in pain, then realizes his leg is spewing blood. He eyes Secelia. Then at his leg. He swallows the pain and limps towards her.

The ground rolls a crack that splits the room in half!

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Secelia!

Gawain tumbles and rolls to the back! Secelia bolts to the tip of her room and, conjuring all her energy, vaults over to Gawain's side! The ground shifts again and the building tilts down...

As Gawain and Secelia begin to slide down to their deaths, Secelia ceases Gawain's arm with one hand and extends her other hand to a nearby rail.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

What are you doing?!

SECELIA

Saving you!

GAWAIN

Let me go! I'll drag you down if you keep holding onto me!

SECELIA

Just shut up and let me save you!

Gawain is astonished by this. He obeys nonetheless. He looks below at the impending drop. Swallows hard.

GAWAIN

I can't let you die because of me. You'll eventually give in and drop both of us, so I'll make it easier for you.

SECELIA

Gawain, no! Don't you dare! If I die too, I will find you in your next life and personally kill you!

GAWATN

Sorry, princess.

Gawain opens his hand as Secelia struggles to keep him elevated. Alas, she can't hold on longer...and Gawain slips out of her grasp.

SECELIA

VOLUME ONE

No!

As Gawain falls to his doom, a Dimension Barrier suddenly forms below. He penetrates through it! Secelia, seeing this miracle, drops after him --

INT. WORLD OF STARDUST - STREET - CONTINUOUS

-- And Andros drops flat on his face. He peers up at the Wolf.

ANDROS

Where am I?

WOLF

We've traveled to another world, Stardust. Look.

Snow drifts down peacefully, until it shifts into hail!

ANDROS

Ice. What's happening?

WOLF

Destruction. You must learn, young Guardian Spirit, that destruction always comes before creation.

The wind directs Andros towards the sight of the inner-city. Smoke rises in distress. Buildings collapse. Screams emanate.

Andros' eyes FLARE. In Ancient Esordian:

ANDROS

Why do you show me this?!

WOLF

I and my sisters are bound to balance. But they have been blinded by a greater power. You've helped me remember. You've reached inside my soul.

The wolf's eyes BLAZE back in reaction.

ANDROS

Someone's controlling you?

WOLF

Our actions are committed without realization, but our thoughts can be freed. Though our minds burn, our spirits can rest at peace.

ANDROS

How can I help?

WOLF

Find those with the Blood of Creation. Save them.

ANDROS

How many are there?

IN A BLINDING FLASH -- The Wolf is lacerated.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

No!

CHRONOS

I told you not to involve yourself with the Guardian, Andros.

Andros watches the Wolf lay dying. He looks at Chronos.

ANDROS

Chronos? Why did you do that? What have you done?!

CHRONOS

Didn't you want the wolf dead?

ANDROS

No! Well, yes, before. But that changed!

CHRONOS

There is a situation more dire than the wolf, Andros.

ANDROS

Then tell me who I am! Why could I communicate with the wolf?! Why don't I--

Chronos snaps his finger and Andros falls silent. He attempts to speak, but fails.

CHRONOS

Do you ever shut up?

He snaps his fingers again. Everything around them goes BLACK. A HOLOGRAM of galaxies among galaxies come into view around them. It zooms into planets.

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

Do you see all this? Welcome to Esordio, Andros.

(MORE)

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

I need you to listen, not ask questions, understand? Esordio is the place consisting of many worlds. You are a Guardian Spirit, the protector of these worlds. You ensure the balance and keep the story penned as it should be in each world. But there's a problem now. You've noticed the vortex, yes?

VOLUME ONE

Andros nods.

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

It's not a vortex.

The hologram shifts into two planets FUSING!

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

It's the result of two worlds fusing into one. Do you understand? Various realities are beginning to exist concurrently. It's ripping the natural balance of creation and existence.

Andros talks effortlessly.

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

What I need from you is to shut up and find your damn gauntlet so you can fix all this!

Andros' eyes BURN. He screams, breaking out in noise!

ANDROS

What gauntlet?! Where?!

CHRONOS

You're the Guardian Spirit. It's connected to you. Find it! We don't have time.

ANDROS

What does it look like?

CHRONOS

It's a gauntlet. It looks like a gauntlet!

ANDROS

Okay. Okay... Where do I begin?

Chronos snaps his fingers. Andros returns to reality to see Chronos is gone.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Chronos?

The hail begins to fall violently. Andros smacks them away with his hand.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Ow! Ow! Not a brilliant idea!

A Dimension Barrier shadows beside him. Chronos stands beyond it, then disappears in a blink of an eye. Andros follows.

As he leaves, the Cloaked Figure from earlier observes. His eyes LUSTER. A Dimension Barrier rushes through him and he vanishes.

INT. WORLD OF NOVEXUS - CONTINUOUS

A luminous world with a grand waterfall as its landmark. Below the waterfall awaits a natural oasis; a relaxing river with tropical trees.

This serene sight is ruined by Secelia carrying Gawain around her shoulder. They rest under a tree.

SECELIA

Okay, I think we'll be safe here for now.

GAWAIN

Those creatures. What were they?

SECELIA

I don't know, but I saw them slaughter a family before we left...

GAWAIN

Not something the eyes of a princess should witness.

SECELIA

Let's check on your wound.

She lifts Gawain's leg. Gawain winces like a baby.

GAWAIN

Ow! Ow!

SECELIA

Stop moving so much! Even a baby is tougher than you.

GAWAIN

Shut up!

(realizing his mistake)
Sorry, princess.

SECELIA

It's alright, Gawain. We've been friends since we were little. Well, we've stopped the bleeding for now. You know Gawain, you've done so much to protect me. Thank you.

GAWAIN

Wait, wait! Shh!

Gawain reaches down to the butt of his sword. SNARLS radiate from beyond.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Do you here that?

SECELIA

It followed us...

Gawain wraps his head around the tree to steal a glance. A WINGED BEAST flutters by.

GAWAIN

We both know what I have to do if you are to escape from here, alive.

SECELIA

We don't know what they're capable of.

GAWAIN

That's why I'm going to find out so you can prepare yourself. We're in a forest. Use that to your advantage.

SECELIA

Wait, Gawain!

Gawain rolls out and sneaks behind another tree. He whistles. The Winged Beast searches for the noise. Gawain slowly approaches it from behind...

Suddenly, the beast's tail SNAPS Gawain off the ground! It flings him into the river!

SECELIA (CONT'D)

Gawain!

She shuts her mouth in fear of discovery. She cranes her head around the tree to search for the Winged Beast. It's gone. She recovers to her original position. She checks again --

VOLUME ONE

-- THE WINGED BEAST SNARLS IN HER FACE.

Secelia's eyes FLARE. The beast senses something. It retreats...

SECELIA (CONT'D)

What are you?

The beast dares not to harm her. It extends its mouth, ripping it open, and it produces a GAUNTLET. Secelia cautiously retrieves it, not seeming to mind the monster slobber.

SECELIA (CONT'D)

This gauntlet. Why are you giving it to me?

WINGED BEAST

(In Ancient Esordian)

Pure...

She tries to understand, but a thought races back to Secelia:

SECELIA

Gawain!

She rushes to the riverbank and dives her head under! Above in the sky, a vortex forms. The sky goes black...

INT. RIVER - CONTINUOUS

A dark abyss. Secelia's eyes BLAZE. An infared view reveals Gawain struggling to stay afloat. She plunges in after him!

Reaching him, she grabs him and drags him above water. Gawain takes in a much needed deep breath.

EXT. RIVER - CONTINUOUS

GAWAIN

Oh by Neo's blood, that was close!

SECELIA

It got darker.

GAWATN

You're right. It did.

SECELIA

VOLUME ONE

The sky. There's no light at all. It's as if the entire sky was just... Gone. Quickly Gawain, out of the water.

The gauntlet FLARES to life. Secelia notices this.

GAWAIN

What is that?

SECELIA

A gauntlet. I found it. It's similar to the one in my dreams.

GAWAIN

What happened in your dream?

SECELIA

I don't know. It belongs to a man. He can save us.

GAWATN

Great! Where can we find him?

SECELIA

I don't know...

Suddenly, the Winged Beast returns with an army of other deformed beasts.

GAWATN

Secelia! I dropped my sword in the river.

SECELIA

Of course you did!

As the duo slowly retreat back, a Dimension Barrier rises behind them. Secelia attempts to penetrate it, but it's impossible!

SECELIA (CONT'D)

Gawain, didn't we fall through something like this?

GAWAIN

Yes, we did.

SECELTA

Why can't we do it now?

The gauntlet continues to BLAZE intensely. Slowly, shadows beyond the barrier become clear. It's Andros!

INT. WORLD OF VESTRILL - MAIN COURT - CONTINUOUS

Andros defends himself against a horde of creatures with his sword.

ANDROS

Where did you come from?!

A creature CLAWS at him. He bends back.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Not the appropriate time to ask questions I suppose.

He kicks a creatures away, then slices another one.

Andros' eyes FLARE. A sudden shrill tone resonates with him. He falls to his knees as the pitch scales to its highest!

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Aaah! What is that noise?!

A Dimension Barrier rises before Andros. Beyond it are Secelia and Gawain, trapped!

With a swift FLUTTER, Chronos enters the scene.

CHRONOS

Rise Andros.

ANDROS

I can't! That sound is killing me!!!

CHRONOS

What sound?

ANDROS

It's very loud! High-pitched.

CHRONOS

That gauntlet! It's attempting to reconnect with you. Listen, Andros. The timing is very crucial. We can save this world, but I need you to lend me the gauntlet's power once you obtain it.

ANDROS

How do I do that?

CHRONOS

You think it. It'll listen to you. But be warned, if we are to err, then the gauntlet's power will consume you and you will kill us all.

ANDROS

Very inspiring words! OOWWWW!

Andros rolls around to the barrier. He matches eyes with Secelia, then they drop to the gauntlet she's holding. He crawls towards the barrier.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Hey! Can you hear me?!

He reaches his hand to the barrier, but it won't pass. Realizing this, he pounds his fists into it!

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Hey! Hey!

INT. WORLD OF NOVEXUS - CONTINUOUS

Secelia is unsure how to react. She remembers...

INT. WORLD OF VESTRILL - MAIN COURT - FLASHBACK

The gauntlet latches onto a levitating figure: Andros.

END OF FLASHBACK

BACK TO PRESENT

SECELIA

That's him, Gawain! The man in my dreams! This gauntlet is his!

GAWAIN

How do we deliver it to him then?

SECELTA

I don't know...

The sky becomes darker, almost engulfing all of light. Secelia gazes at the shining gauntlet.

On the opposite side, Andros reaches out to Secelia...

Secelia presses the gauntlet into the Dimension Barrier. Miraculously, it phases through!

GAWAIN

Secelia, what are you doing! It might slice your hand off!

SECELIA

Worth the risk!

Suddenly, the gauntlet flies out of Secelia's hand --

INT. WORLD OF VESTRILL - MAIN COURT - CONTINUOUS

-- And it latches onto Andros' hand. A sudden burst of flaming energy SHATTERS the Dimension Barrier! Andros pulls in Secelia and Gawain back to Vestrill.

Andros observes Secelia's petrified eyes.

ANDROS

Is everything alright?

Secelia scans her surroundings. Rain becomes tainted with blood. Building collapse. The entire court infested by unworldly creatures.

SECELIA

My dreams have become real, Gawain.

CHRONOS

Andros! You have connect to the gauntlet with your mind!

ANDROS

Right!

(to Secelia and Gawain)

Excuse me...

Andros focuses. He closes his eyes. They SNAP open with fire. A circle of flames traps Andros. He slowly rises. The fire around him twirls around.

CHRONOS

Slowly, Andros. Now lend me your power!

A sudden burst of energy pulses out! Gawain covers Secelia as he tackles her to the ground.

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

No! Andros, control it!

Secelia recovers from the fall to be faced with Gawain's lifeless eyes.

SECELIA

No, Gawain! No! Don't die! No!

Andros' eyes BLAZE furiously. His flesh begins to burn again.

CHRONOS

Andros! Can you hear me?

Fire builds up around Andros. Meanwhile, Secelia lies Gawain to rest. She peers up at Andros to see his golden eyes.

SECELIA

Those eyes...

The fire around Andros rapidly spins.

CHRONOS

No...It's too late.

Suddenly, Andros absorbs the fires for a brief moment. Then he expels them in a SHOCKWAVE OF INFERNO, incinerating everything in its path and, with a BLINDING FLASH --

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF CHAPTER ONE