

ESORDIAN LEGENDS

EPISODE #1

"The Stranger & the Wolf"

by  
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**TEASER**

FADE IN:

**INT. ESORDIO - ESTABLISHING**

We roam around what appears to be deep space. CLOUDS OF DEBRIS rush through us, until finally, we slowly come to see different worlds (alternate realities of Earth).

Each world emits a colourful aura that dances and twirls, adding beauty into the void that surrounds them. We linger on the worlds. There's a story here.

CHRONOS (V.O.)

(a smooth and enticing voice)

Welcome to Esordio. Here, there are different worlds, but these are not just worlds. They're stories.

(beat)

Each and every world has its own tale, its own legend, but even with all these stories, the Legend of Esordio itself, remains unknown.

We slowly close in on one of these worlds: VESTRILL. Its aura FLARES as we dive through. Prepare to embark on a great journey...

As the flames pale, we push through a gray, impenetrable wall of cloud. Luckily, the wind wisps away the clouds, clearing our view --

**EXT. CITY OF VESTRILL - FOREST - NIGHT**

-- and we suddenly find ourselves in a dense, foggy forest.

Dark. But moonlight spills into the forest. The silhouetted trees appear to be nature's monsters. Besides all this, we may notice one thing in particular. The forest is too quiet for dusk - not even the crickets dare to chirp.

There's a dark and oppressive presence nearby... A low, hungry growl RICOCHETS as the clouds unveil the FULL MOON.

**EXT. FOREST - FIELD - CONTINUOUS**

A commodious grassy field where several sheep wander around. ETHAN KALLIAS, a young lad, clearly a peasant, his clothing woven with linen, doodles on the dirt with his CROOK. Unfortunately, he's not doing his real duty - watching the sheep.

Something rushes by at BLINDING speed behind Ethan. It retreats into the bushes. Ethan catches the sound of RUSTLES. He turns around and approaches the source with his crook. But he stops short at the entrance to the ominous forest. He calls out.

ETHAN  
(tentatively)  
Hello?

A twig SNAPS on the right. Something big darts off at the left with THUDDING foot steps. These are signs of an insidious force stalking Ethan while concealing itself in the shadows.

From somewhere comes the FAINT SOUND of a LITTLE GIRL'S VOICE, singing, slow-tempo, almost under her breath. It's an eerie tune that's sure to shake anyone's bones...

LITTLE GIRL (O.S.)  
Thump-thump, goes your heart, when  
will it ever stop? Thump-thump, please  
make it stop, it is very loud.

Ethan cautiously brushes a bush aside. He hesitates to step forward. His conscience and curiosity battle. But his curiosity overwhelms his thoughts. He can't help but step through to see...

A LITTLE GIRL. She's all alone, sitting on the dirt, with her head bowed down. She's wearing a white dress. Cute, cozy, creepy.

ETHAN  
Hey, are you alright? Where's your  
parents? Why are you out here by  
yourself?

She ignores him, still facing down. Continues singing...

LITTLE GIRL  
Thump-thump, goes Ethan's heart, when  
will it ever stop?

Ethan frowns at the mention of his name. He takes a step back.

LITTLE GIRL (CONT'D)

(slowing down)

Thump-thump, it's very loud, so I'll  
make sure it pops!

The Little Girl faces up furiously. Her face suddenly MORPHS into a furry texture. The moonlight enters the scene to reveal her shadow as she shifts into a WOLF.

Ethan beats a quick retreat, dropping the crook. The wolf remains. It HOWLS into the night as it seemingly DISAPPEARS with the fog. An evanescent being...

**INT. FOREST - FARTHER IN - MOMENTS LATER**

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

The GROWL closes in. He glints around. He doesn't know what to do...

Hapless, he crawls behind the tree and closes his eyes, hoping that everything is just a nightmare. But it is. Just not a dreamt one.

Ethan cowers. As he breathes heavily, we can hear his heart POUNDING. THUMP-THUMP. THUMP-THUMP. His face grimaces as he takes in a breath of a FOUL STENCH. He waves the smell away, but it persists.

Then he realises...

Something's breathing on him. His eyes FLASH OPEN to see the wolf but, before he can react, the wolf FADES AWAY with the fog. Now Ethan looks awkward. *What was that?*

But there's no time to ponder. He seizes the moment to run!

ETHAN

Wolf! Wolf! Help! Wolf!

He glances back. The wolf POUNCES out of no where! The chase is on. But death is inevitable, because at this point, we know that this is no ordinary wolf...

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Someone! Please! Wolf! Wolf!!!

Ethan faces forward again to run into SECELIA, early-twenties, perfect features, strawberry blonde hair. She is Ethan's older sister.

SECELIA

Ethan! What has gotten into you?! Your screaming of a wolf is waking up the entire village!

Ethan pivots back. The wolf is gone, yet the fog still hems in the forest. Very little of the ground is visible. He faces Secelia again.

ETHAN

Please sister! You have to believe me!  
There was a wolf!

SECELIA

Ethan, we talked about this! We shouldn't say such things for fun!

ETHAN

Secelia...

Ethan's eyes POP with fear. He slowly retreats. Perhaps it's not Secelia he's scared of, but something behind her...

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Secelia, don't move...

SECELIA

Now that is enough--

Secelia suddenly FREEZES over the sound of a low growl behind her. She trembles as she SPINS AROUND to see --

-- THE WOLF POUNCE AT HER.

Secelia darts to Ethan when --

IN A FLASH - The wolf POUNCES.

IN A FLASH - SHARP. GLEAMING. FANGS.

IN A FLASH - The wolf attacks Ethan with martial brutality.

FADE TO BLACK.

We hear Secelia's AGONIZING scream.

**END OF TEASER**

ACT ONE**INT. FOREST - MORNING**

Same forest from last night, but something's different. The fog no longer lingers and the wind no longer whispers. Birds chirp. Not a single sign of last night's horror remains. It's a colourful morning.

CHRONOS (V.O.)

There is often a "Hero of Legend" in every story. And every Hero has a destiny to fulfill. No matter how far he runs or stalls, it is only a matter of time before destiny catches up and, until it arrives, he can only wait, live, and learn.

A YOUNG LAD lies against a tree, unconscious. A BLACK STANDARD is encrusted inches beside the tree.

Shafts of the morning light endow upon the forest. He winces, yet his face is unseen.

A pair of aghast eyes FLASH OPEN as the lad rises with a deep gasp of air. We see his legs, his shoulders, his gorgeous eyes, but not his face.

CHRONOS (V.O.)

He cannot glimpse his part in the great story that is about to unfold. Whether his destiny may be for good.

(beat)

Or evil... A Hero can only accept his destiny as it arrives, but if he truly does not wish to, even if he cannot elude destiny, what he can do.

(beat)

Is stall. And hope that his moment of destiny hasn't arrived...

A draught RUSTLES the trees. As the wind lifts away the leaves, we finally see his face. He is an instantly attractive young man, with blonde hair and a charming face, able to entice any woman with a first glance.

GAWAIN (O.C.)

I take it you had an unpleasant night?

The Lad twirls around, startled, to see SIR GAWAIN GRIER, mid-twenties, a gallant, and dashing, knight.

The Lad awkwardly stares at Gawain, who is squatted a few meters away.

YOUNG LAD

Have you been watching me?

GAWAIN

You are in no obligation to ask questions. Now, what were you doing here last night?

YOUNG LAD

(stuttering)

I don't remember...

(beat)

In fact, I don't remember anything.

GAWAIN

Do you at least have a name?

YOUNG LAD

Probably, but I don't remember...

Gawain thinks hard.

GAWAIN

You don't remember your own name?

YOUNG LAD

What's your name?

GAWAIN

I do not like repeating myself, but for you, simpleton, I will make an exception.

The Young Lad scoffs.

YOUNG LAD

You never told me your name!

GAWAIN

You were asleep.

(beat)

Should've paid attention.

YOUNG LAD

(complaining)

I was asleep!

It's Gawain's turn to scoff.

GAWAIN

I am Sir Gawain Grier of Vestrill--

YOUNG LAD

--Ah! But that is not your name! That is merely a title given to you, thus, YOU do not know your own name. Think of *that* next time before you go asking other people for their name!

Gawain does not know what to say. He can only gawk at the Lad. He places his hand on the hilt of his sword. The Lad notices. He swallows hard, suddenly realising the danger he has gotten himself into.

GAWAIN

This is serious. Have you seen yourself?

YOUNG LAD

What do you mean?

GAWAIN

Look at your shirt.

The Young Lad glances down and it is then that he notices the DRIED BLOOD STAINS on his WHITE SHIRT. A closer examination on the shirt will reveal that it is weaved with gold and silver - the mark of royalty.

YOUNG LAD

Ah... This? I'd say I don't know, which I don't, but that really won't help me much, will it?

GAWAIN

Are you travelling?

The Lad examines his dirtied garments.

YOUNG LAD

Quite possibly.

GAWAIN

And where did you get that sword?

The Lad pivots back to the black standard. His eyes narrow. Something on the sword has caught his attention. He reaches for it just as...

Gawain suddenly hops up and draws his sword.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Hey! Back where you were!

The Lad neglects to turn around. His audacity is remarkable - he remains nonchalant and whimsical, even when Gawain is pointing a sword at him.

YOUNG LAD

Oi, mate! You can put that sword away.  
I don't want any trouble.

GAWAIN

Well, unfortunately for you, you  
already are in enough trouble! By the  
laws of Vestrill--

YOUNG LAD

--Oh, please! Do keep talking. You're  
bound to say something intelligent.

Gawain glowers at the Lad, clearly taking offence at the intrusion.

GAWAIN

Or I, one who could be so stupid...

The Lad swallows hard at the realisation of his mistake. Gawain's grip on his sword tightens with anger and annoyance.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Tell me, if you don't remember  
anything, do remember how to fight?

YOUNG LAD

What part of not remembering anything  
don't you--

GAWAIN

(impatient)  
--Answer me!

YOUNG LAD

No, not really...

The Lad firmly stands his ground, holding a smile on his face - but displays a look of contempt. He's definitely ready for anything.

GAWAIN

Better start learning!

Gawain swings his sword, but the Lad, displaying his acumen and quick reflexes, dodges the attack and safely navigates himself to the black standard. The Lad tugs it out of the ground. Now, he's really ready for battle.

The Lad is clearly skilled in the sword arts. He repeatedly counters Gawain's attacks.

His face hardens--

YOUNG LAD

I'd like to see things from your point of view but I can't seem to get my head that far up my arse!

GAWAIN

Keep talking! You're bound to say something intelligent!

YOUNG LAD

Using my own words against me? Well, be my guest!

The Lad and Gawain engage in a deadlock. The Lad takes a closer look at his blade where he espies --

-- A NAME ENGRAVED INTO THE HILT: "ANDROS ALSONT"

YOUNG LAD (CONT'D)

Andros...

The engraving distracts the Lad as Gawain swings away the Lad's sword and, before the Lad can react, Gawain aims a swing at his neck.

The Lad's eyes FLARE and suddenly, before the blade reaches him, time decelerates...

EVERYTHING SLOWS. The Lad steals a glance at his sword. We hear his heart pounding. He turns his focus on Gawain. His eyes narrow...

Realising what he's doing, he suddenly breaks the spell and steps away...

Evading Gawain's attack by milliseconds!

GAWAIN

Oh, is that it?

The Lad, humiliated, aims a punch at Gawain, but Gawain swiftly parries, grabs the Lad's arm, and twists it up behind him.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

I'll have you thrown in jail for that!

YOUNG LAD

Andros! My name's Andros! Andros  
Alsont!

GAWAIN

I thought you didn't know your name!

ANDROS

It's engraved on the sword! Assuming it's mine, my name is Andros!

GAWAIN

That's good to know, Andros. At least I'll have a name to present to the King.

We register Andros' shock as he realises Gawain's seriousness.

ANDROS

Wait--

GAWAIN

--On your knees!

Gawain kicks Andros on the back of his legs. Andros crumples to his knees.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Last night, a young boy was murdered here in these very woods, and I find you here with blood stains on your shirt!

Andros realises Gawain's assertion.

ANDROS

And you think I did it...

**EXT. HILLSIDE (NEAR VESTRILL) - AFTERNOON**

Andros clambers enthusiastically up a steep hillside. Gawain chases after him, holding Andros' black standard.

GAWAIN

Oi! Come back here!

Andros quickly advances to the brow. As he negotiates his final steps, his eyes set on the soaring spires and turrets rising into view...

Gawain finally reaches him.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

The agreement was you stay behind me by ten feet! Not ahead of me by twenty!

ANDROS

Can't I be enthusiastic about meeting  
the King?

GAWAIN

To face judgment? No!

Gawain rethinks his answer as he accompanies Andros to the summit.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Yes!

He thinks one more time.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

I don't know...

The duo stop as they reach the summit. They marvel at something we do not see. We take in their wonder and finally share their P.O.V. to see their eyes are set on the vast city of Vestrill...

ANDROS

So this is Vestrill?

GAWAIN

Yes...

Andros and Gawain gaze at the view as the afternoon sun rays endow upon the city - a golden scenery.

**EXT. VESTRILL - STREET A - LATER**

Andros hurries through the city gates. Gawain tries to keep up with him but the road is jammed with carts and people pouring into the city. It is a sea of diverse multi-cultural faces, much like any major city now.

Andros can barely contain his excitement. He pushes his way through the traffic while absorbing the noisy, yet colourful atmosphere around him.

**EXT. MAIN COURT - MOMENTS LATER**

The sound of whistles, drums, and various other instruments. An eager and jubilant CROWD is gathered in a large cobblestone square at the heart of Vestrill.

A trumpet fanfare BLASTS out as Andros hurries to join the back of the audience. As he pushes his way through, the Crowd falls silent. All the instruments stop playing - all except one. All that can be heard throughout the square is a steady drum beat.

A MAN, his head bowed, is ceremonially led across the square. The drum suddenly stops as its last beat ECHOES through. We hear a voice...

A smiling Andros looks up and sees ALKRIX DRAKUS, the King. A strong, powerful warrior in his early-forties standing on a balcony that dominates the square.

ALKRIX  
People of Vestrill...  
(he stares into the faces of  
the crowd)  
This man...

Andros cranes to find a better viewpoint...

Gawain shadows him.

ALKRIX (CONT'D)  
...is adjudged guilty of conspiring  
with the wretched, demonic creatures  
we call "Karias" and for the murder of  
Ethan Kallias.

Andros' expression of excitement pales...

ALKRIX (CONT'D)  
This action is found to be heretic by  
the Council of the Prime Knights--

GAWAIN  
--My King!

A murmur amongst the crowd as Gawain steps forward, dragging along Andros.

Secelia Kallias watches the scene from a near narrow window, high above the Square. She doesn't look too happy about what she sees.

Alkrix signals Gawain to stop...

ALKRIX  
I pride myself as a fair and just  
King, and for a crime that is this  
heinous... there is only one sentence  
I can pass.  
(signaling the soldiers)  
Bring forth the prisoner.

A sudden drum roll as the crowd LEANS FORWARD in order to get a better view at the CONDEMNED MAN.

Andros catches a brief glimpse of the man and the EXECUTIONER raising his axe, then glances over to Alkrix.

Alkrix has his hand raised aloft. He lets it fall...

GAWAIN

Wait!

Alkrix glares down at Gawain. He leans forward.

Andros spies around as all eyes turn on him and Gawain. This brief moment calls for hushed voices.

ANDROS

What are you doing Gawain?

GAWAIN

Saving an innocent man.

(to Alkrix - loud and clear)

The man you have condemned is not the one you seek!

ALKRIX

Are you defying the decision of the Council, Gawain?

GAWAIN

Not at all! I am merely expressing my word.

Alkrix exhales. A powerful man such as he has no time to listen about something that has already been decided. But a fair man is fair.

ALKRIX

Very well. What have you discovered?

ANDROS

(to Gawain)

Yes, what *have* you discovered?

At the window, Secelia's expression shifts. She has a sudden interest in the scene. She turns away and hurries out the door.

GAWAIN

You sent me to investigate the death of the boy in the woods, and I found

(gesturing at Andros)

This man!

Andros notices the crowd take a step back with a GASP.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Andros Alson! I found him in the forest, with blood on his shirt, and with no memory of the night before. If I may state, this man you are accusing is innocent! The man you are looking for is Andros!

Suddenly, the crowd in front of Andros stands up with a roar. Alkrix leans closer to the Square. Here's a twist that even he did not suspect.

Andros is appaled by Gawain's perfidious accusation. All eyes turn on Andros.

ANDROS

No! I-I...

From amongst the crowd, a HOODED FIGURE of a woman circles around the back. She clambers up onto a wooden scaffold supporting a grandstand of temporary tiered seating, granting her a better view. But she's not just hear to watch... She's holding a CROSSBOW.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

...I have no intention of lying to you, my King, so I'll be candid. Gawain has twisted my words-- it's all spurious! I retain memories of nothing! I remember nothing! Not just of last night! My entire life!

GAWAIN

I told you, Andros, you--

ALKRIX

--Silence!

Alkrix's scream echoes through the square, grabbing immediate attention.

ALKRIX (CONT'D)

I will hear no more of this.

(to Gawain)

This is substantial evidence: the blood stains and the fact that he recalls nothing.

ANDROS

That is outrageous! You can't do that!

ALKRIX

I am the King! It shall be done.

Gawain grabs hold of Andros, but Andros aims a punch at Gawain. Gawain swiftly parries, but a tad too late as Andros quickly squats and retrieves his sword from Gawain. He's a quick learner - remembering Gawain's exact move from earlier in the forest.

Gawain draws his sword. Andros prepares to counter but finds himself suddenly surrounded by a group of SOLDIERS. But that's not going to stop him. He leg sweeps Gawain and hops on top to thrust the sword into his chest, but stops an inch away. He returns to reality - suddenly realising what he's done.

He tosses his sword to the side.

ANDROS

You make me feel so strong...

The Soldiers move in to apprehend Andros as Gawain regains his balance, his eyes fixed on Andros.

The Hooded Figure watches the scene from the scaffold. She raises her crossbow...

The Soldiers switch out the Condemned Man with Andros, cuffing him with chains and escorting him to the Executioner.

Secelia runs out to the square just as --

-- An arrow SWOOSHES by, flying through the limited spacing between people's heads, and PUNCTURES through the Condemned Man. Whoever shot this is highly accurate and precise...

The crowd stands with a roar, obscuring the terrible sight.

The Soldiers leave Andros to aid the fallen man. Andros ceases the moment to quickly spy the direction the arrow came from. He browses through the many faces that scramble the scene. His eyes narrow on the Hooded Figure - the only one who stands out from the rest.

He dashes off, but forgets he's chained. He looks down at it. Nothing much he can do. But he must, or else the assassinator will be lost. He continues to bolt after the Hooded Figure.

Gawain spots Andros fleeing the scene.

GAWAIN

Get back here!

Gawain retrieves Andros' sword and chases after Andros.

**EXT. VESTRILL - STREET B - MOMENTS LATER**

The Hooded Figure ruthlessly pushes through the crowd, trampling over carts and pushing various obstacles to forestall her pursuers. But it's going to take more than cabbages and carts to stop Andros. He leaps over them!

Unfortunately for Gawain, he has to find another route. He quickly glances around, looks back at Andros to see that he is running farther away, decides to take the leap. He takes several steps back, rushes forth, and jumps!

**EXT. VESTRILL - STREET A - MOMENTS LATER**

The Hooded Figure steals a glance back. Andros is still after her.

She abruptly stops running as she reaches the city gates. She's trapped. Andros comes to a halt a safe distance away from her.

ANDROS

Ha! Is that all you got?!

HOODED FIGURE

You're the one who's trapped.

Andros glances down at his cuffs. And back to the Hooded Figure.

ANDROS

I can't quite say that I disagree--  
But, you're the one who's really  
trapped!

(beat)

What are you going to do now? Fight  
through the best knights Vestrill has  
to offer and then crash through the  
gates to your freedom?

The Hooded Figure smirks. She's planning something...

HOODED FIGURE

Yes.

Suddenly, her cloak COMBUSTS into a BURST OF FLAMES that appears to have originated from her body. The flames quickly pale as the Hooded Figure suddenly shifts into a hideous, hellish beast - a FIRE KARIAS. As it saunters towards Andros, its steps are MELTED into the ground.

All Andros can manage is to gawp at the monster. Suddenly, the beast sucks in a lung full of air and suddenly conjures an ARRAY OF FIRE aimed directly at Andros!

GAWAIN

Andros, duck!

Gawain suddenly tackles Andros to the ground as Secelia arrives at the scene. The Karias takes notice.

ANDROS

Why did you kill that man?!

KARIAS

(a distorted, sonorous voice)

He was playing with fire. He was bound to be burned.

Andros frowns, wondering what the Karias means. But before he can ponder more, the Karias sucks in more air and prepares to fire just as Andros steals Gawain's sword and THRUSTS it through the Karias' stomach.

ANDROS

Yes!

Andros' brief taste of victory pales as he realises the thrust has made no effect on the Karias whatsoever. The BLADE melts as the metal FUSES with the Karias' body.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

No!

The Karias leans in and breathes a TRAIL OF FIRE, but Andros' quick reflexes guide him out of danger, and back to Gawain.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Huzzah!

Gawain glances over to Andros. *What was that?* Andros shrugs.

The Karias aims for them both as they attempt to dodge the attacks.

GAWAIN

Karias!

ANDROS

What?

GAWAIN

The Karias is an ancient species of demonic creatures with powers from the six elements.

ANDROS

Did you see how it melted my sword?!

GAWAIN

You mean *my* sword?

Andros' face hardens--

ANDROS

Yes! Your sword! You know how hard it is to handle a sword when your hands are cuffed?!

Andros quickly ROLLS to dodge a BLAST OF FLAMES.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

How do we kill it?!

GAWAIN

We can't! It's immune to mortal weapons!

ANDROS

That's great! Just great! And I thought you were an arse, turns out the universe is the one that's one giant arse! And I literally mean that!

Suddenly, the Karias aims the INFERNAL at Andros' feet. He SPRINGS UP, managing to dodge the attack, but upon falling back to the ground, he realizes his shoes are fused to the ground.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Oh, no. Gawain! I can't move!

The Karias' attention turns to Gawain. Gawain draws Andros' sword and swiftly SLICES off the Karias' head in a blink of an eye. He proceeds to cut apart Andros' cuffs. Secelia GASPS as her hand shoots up to her mouth with horror.

GAWAIN

That should stall it for a bit until it reattaches itself.

ANDROS

It can do that?!

GAWAIN

The Karias are not to be messed with.

ANDROS

I can see why!

Andros notices some flesh from the mutilated head ROPING at the neck. It begins to reel itself in.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

(with disgust)

And I wish I didn't have to see that...

GAWAIN

I'm sorry Andros, your boots are completely melted into the ground. You're stuck.

Secelia rushes to Andros' aid.

SECELIA

No! We can still help him.

GAWAIN

Secelia? What are you doing here?!

SECELIA

I've been watching.

Secelia thoroughly examines Andros' shoes. As she inspects, Andros' attention, yet again, turns to the head, which has been fully reattached to its body. The body slowly rises...

SECELIA (CONT'D)

Now, this isn't the best of methods, but we have to pull him out!

ANDROS

As much as I'd like that, no matter how much pain I might feel, you can't! Behind you!

Gawain and Secelia quickly whirl around to see the Karias, ready to release its full arsenal of fire. They quickly roll out its way as it BLASTS FIRE towards Andros.

Andros slams his eyes shut - ready for death. We hear his heart POUNDING.

A voice ECHOES as Andros' eyes FLASH OPEN to see the flames have reached him, but he isn't completely engulfed. Time is frozen. It's ANDROS TIME...

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

Andros!

The voice RIPPLES across time, causing a bit of distortion in the images that surround Andros. It is the voice that we may find familiar... Perhaps from the opening...

Andros remains motionless. His head constantly shifts, trying to seek the origin of the voice.

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

Andros!!!

The voice increases its magnitude, seeming to emanate from every corner. The air RIPPLES. The earth QUAKES. This is a powerful being...

Andros is left with his jaw dropped to the ground. He remains motionless - deep in thought.

ANDROS

Chronos...

How did he know that? He doesn't remember anything... Andros slowly pivots around to see --

-- CHRONOS. A dashing man dressed with class. Royal attire. He seems to be the same age as Andros, but slightly taller. A strange INSIGNIA engraved into the back of his hands gives off a mysterious vibe...

CHRONOS

Hello, Andros.

ANDROS

Who are you? How do I know you?! I don't remember anything, but from the sound of your voice, you sounded familiar...

CHRONOS

I'm flattered that you remember me, Andros, but we are in not in a situation where we can talk.

ANDROS

(gesturing the area)  
Look around you! Time has stopped!

Andros realises...

ANDROS (CONT'D)

You're doing this, aren't you? How?! Wait, earlier today, when I was sparring with Gawain, did you--

CHRONOS

--Yes. I assisted you in your fight.

Andros does not reply. He thinks. *Is Chronos to be trusted?*

ANDROS

What do you want from me?

As Chronos paces around, Andros' eyes track his every movement, clearly feeling tense and uncomfortable being around Chronos.

CHRONOS

I just want to help you realise how much power you hold.

ANDROS

What do you mean?

The atmosphere suddenly changes to the scenery of different worlds, like what we saw in the beginning. The worlds slowly arc around Andros.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

How did you do that?!

CHRONOS

It's a shame you lost your memories. You could have done so much more...

(beat)

Are you familiar with the story of Neo?

ANDROS

No. Should I?

CHRONOS

It's a classic everyone knows.

ANDROS

Why should I know then?

CHRONOS

You're special. Esordio is a single world where Legends and stories reside, but among them, the creation myth, the origins of Esordio, stood out from the rest. The story goes that Neo, the prince of Esordio, used the powers of his Gauntlet for selfish reasons and declared himself King of Esordio.

(beat)

But the Spirit concealed in the Gauntlet, Genesis, confronted him and the two fought. In the end, Genesis sacrificed itself by splitting itself into three Spirits, forcing the Gauntlet to split into three Gauntlets: The Exodiac Caestu, the Luminex Caestu, and the Calvex Caestu.

(MORE)

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

By splitting the Gauntlets, Neo's power was weakened, and Genesis proceeded to declare Neo unfit to be Hero and trapped him in an eternal curse in the Core of Esordio. But Neo's power has been growing, and he will return.

ANDROS

Spirit? Gauntlets?

CHRONOS

Back in the time of the Ancients, people had the ability to summon powerful beings known as "Spirits". These Spirits had the ability to conjure one of the six elements: Earth, Water, Air, Fire, Light, and Darkness. Varying on the type of Spirit of course. Knights who had the ability to fuse together with their Spirits were called "Guardian Spirits". Spirits were a way of life.

(beat)

But these Spirits were no match for the ultimate Spirit, Neo's Spirit: Genesis. Ever since Neo's corruption, Genesis locked everyone's ability to summon Spirits.

ANDROS

What do you want me to do?!

CHRONOS

Have some confidence, Andros. You're strong, physically and mentally. All you have to do is believe that you'll live from this situation, and you will.

ANDROS

Why did you tell me that story?

Chronos thinks for a beat. The atmosphere suddenly shifts back to Vestrill.

CHRONOS

I wish you luck, Andros. We can talk more later.

(beat)

That is if you survive this.

ANDROS

Chronos, wait--

Chronos snaps his fingers as time resumes.

The INFERNO engulfs Andros as he lets out a painful, agonizing scream. But wait... Andros is still alive! He's in the flames and he's still alive. The ground CRACKS. Something's happening...

Andros' eyes BLAZE. The flames shoot up to the sky! He's absorbing the fire...

Gawain and Secelia stare in awe. The Karias takes a step back.

SECELIA

Gawain, what's happening?

GAWAIN

I don't know...

Andros shoots out his right hand. He directs all the flames to it. The inferno wraps around Andros' arm. He glances up for Gawain, Secelia, and the Karias to see that his pupils are glowing gold.

SECELIA

Gawain, his eyes!

GAWAIN

That's impossible. It's only a legend...

Suddenly, Andros releases all his energy as a RAGING FIRE bursts from his body, emitting an intense heat wave. This is just the beginning of the spectacle. The fire wrapped around Andros' arm rapidly spins! Slowly we begin to see a GAUNTLET forming. A fully automated gauntlet extends down to Andros' fingers. He opens his hand to reveal CLAWS.

The flames pale. Andros' shoes escape being rooted. As Andros saunters towards the Karias, his eyes continuing to GLINT, he reveals the end result of the transformation. The EXODIAC CAESTU! One of the three legendary gauntlets. It is a prestigious weapon, distinguished from the rest with its unique design and colours (red, black, and hints of gold).

The Karias lunges at Andros but, before it can even attack, Andros swiftly thrusts the gauntlet through the Karias' chest with his claws. Gawain and Secelia watch as the Karias collapses to dust.

Gawain and Secelia are left speechless - they can only gawp.

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO**EXT. MAIN COURT - NIGHT**

A jovial CROWD is gathered around a ROUND TABLE, where food and quality eating utensils reside. The sound of music and cheers echo throughout the court. Sounds like a grand feast...

Andros aimlessly roams around. A DRUNK MAN stumbles by and embraces him. Andros pushes the Drunk Man away with disgust.

ANDROS  
(muttering)  
Animals...

A hand suddenly shoots out from behind. Andros' eyes FLARE. Several KNIVES on the table jump up and prepare to thrust into the enemy. Andros spins around in complete fright to see Gawain. The spell abruptly breaks as the knives immediately dive into the table.

ANDROS (CONT'D)  
Gawain! You should know better than to scare me.

GAWAIN  
Yes, that was my intention. So, 'Guardian Spirit', how does your ability work?

ANDROS  
I don't know. It's more like a reaction.

Gawain acknowledges. He wants a taste of this power.

GAWAIN  
Let's see!

Gawain suddenly draws his sword.

ANDROS  
Gawain? What are you doing?!

GAWAIN  
Entertainment, for the guests. We're all curious as to how powerful you are.

ANDROS  
Even when you found out I'm this so called "Guardian Spirit", you're still an arse...

GAWAIN

Are you going to keep talking or are you going to shut up and fight?

Andros looks around. He notices the Crowd take a step back. He glares sternly at Gawain, firmly standing his ground - ready for battle.

The Crowd CHEERS for Gawain.

ANDROS

Let's fight!

Gawain swings his sword. Andros retreats to the table.

GAWAIN

Coward!

ANDROS

We'll see!

As Gawain slices, Andros jumps onto the table. Andros' eyes BLAZE. Several knives spring up and DART towards Gawain. But Gawain quickly flips over the table, guarding himself against the sharp blades.

Andros jumps onto the ground. He quickly browses through his surroundings. What can he use to fight Gawain?

GAWAIN

Is that it?

Andros' eyes GLINT. The table suddenly becomes alive! It tackles Gawain to the ground. Andros turns to the crowd. His audacity draws laughs. He bows.

ANDROS

Thank-you!

The Crowd's chant for Gawain has shifts to a chant for Andros.

On the balcony overlooking the square stands King Alkrix. Andros' actions has cast a smile on his face. He chuckles.

Andros spots Secelia in the distance, carrying BUCKETS OF WATER. For a brief moment, the couple exchange an ogle. He rushes over to help.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Hello, you're that girl who tried to help me earlier, correct?

SECELIA

Yes.

ANDROS

I'd just like to say thank-you. I'm  
Andros by the way.

He smiles. Secelia smiles back.

SECELIA

I'm Secelia.

ANDROS

Pleasure to meet you, my lady. May I  
assist you?

Secelia gapes at Andros, trying to discover his intention. She  
peers down to see that she's carrying a cumbersome load of  
buckets.

SECELIA

Oh! The water!

ANDROS

Yes, a woman like you shouldn't be  
doing this sort of work. Here!

Andros steals the buckets away from Secelia with ease.

SECELIA

With much respect, Andros, it is the  
King's orders that I be the one who  
retrieve the water.

ANDROS

What's a King without a few rebels?

Secelia gazes at Andros, smiling. Her smile pales. Something's  
happening behind Andros...

SECELIA

Andros!

ANDROS

Yes?

SECELIA

Your fight isn't finished!

Andros twirls around to see Gawain thrust his sword forward.  
Andros inadvertently drops the buckets. His eyes FLARE. The  
bucket's fall SLOWS.

GAWAIN

Impressive.

ANDROS

Sorry, Secelia.

SECELIA

For what?

Andros smirks at Gawain. His eyes BLAZE. The bucket flies above Gawain. It tilts 45 degrees. Andros' eyes FLARE as the water comes SPLASHING down on Gawain.

Gawain spits.

GAWAIN

You win.

ANDROS

Of course I do!

Alkrix continues watching from the balcony.

ALKRIX

It seems Gawain has found a new sparring partner. Andros is quite whimsical, is he not?

Alkrix pivots around to see Chronos.

CHRONOS

Yes, he is. But the primary aspect we should focus on is his power. That gauntlet is one of the three legendary gauntlets of Esordio. You're lucky I found one of them.

ALKRIX

And I thank you for that.

CHRONOS

Do remember that I'm only helping for mutual interests.

ALKRIX

Of course. You continue to help the boy regain his memories and I'll do my part.

CHRONOS

What do you plan on doing by manipulating his memories?

ALKRIX

Know where you stand, Chronos. You have your plans I do not ask the details of and I have mine.

CHRONOS

Understood.

Chronos steps back into the shadows and vanishes...

Alkrix retrieves a CARD from his pocket. Its content is similar to that of a tarot card, but more chaotic in design. He flips it to reveal the wolf that Secelia had encountered the night before...

**INT. KING'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM - LATER**

A magnificent ROUND TABLE in the centre of the room. The King rests on his throne, dining alongside Andros, Gawain, and Secelia.

Andros gazes down at his plate. Its content consists of a nutritious and savory meal, but he doesn't seem to be interested.

ALKRIX

Again, Andros, I apologize for the inconvenience I had caused earlier today.

ANDROS

It's okay. You didn't know. You couldn't have\.

Alkrix smiles. He notices Andros is not eating.

ALKRIX

Not hungry?

ANDROS

Very. But my mind cannot dismiss what you've just told me.

GAWAIN

The wolf?

ANDROS

How I'm destined to defeat this "Neo".

SECELIA

Do not ponder on the subject, Andros. It will get you no where. The least you can do is eat. Distract yourself.

Andros ogles up at Secelia. He smiles. The color red suits her. She's wearing a RED CLOAK.

ANDROS

I will. But first, aside from everything you've all enlightened me about, I must ask you, Secelia, what did the wolf look like?

GAWAIN

Andros!

ANDROS

What?

GAWAIN

This is not a proper time to ask.

ANDROS

I'm a Guardian Spirit! I thought Guardian Spirits helped people in any way they could!

(beat)

I have this gauntlet, Gawain. I can help in ways that you can't.

Gawain suddenly stands up, but Secelia grabs his arm, signaling him to take a seat.

SECELIA

It's fine, Gawain.

Gawain sits.

ANDROS

Tell me, Secelia, what did this wolf look like?

Secelia closes her eyes --

**INT. FOREST (FLASHBACK)**

She runs through the forest. She screams hysterically as she glances back to see the wolf, gaining speed with every breath she takes.

SECELIA (V.O.)

Dark fur. Red eyes. Very sharp claws... It reeked of death.

The Wolf suddenly pounces on her.

ANDROS (V.O.)

If your brother did not escape the wolf, how did you?

SECELIA (V.O.)

It disappeared...

The Wolf prepares to eat its meal, but the MOON LIGHT retracts as clouds veil its essence. Secelia looks around. The Wolf is gone...

**INT. KING'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM (BACK TO PRESENT)**

-- and they POP OPEN with fear. Andros can sense the danger by just looking at her... Something has him unsettled - he frantically looks around the room. A LOW GROWL answers back.

ANDROS

Did you hear that?

SECELIA

Hear what?

ANDROS

I don't know... It sounded like a growl.

ALKRIX

I think you've been paying attention to Secelia's description too closely, Andros.

ANDROS

(to Secelia)  
So it disappeared?

SECELIA

Yes...

Andros suddenly springs up from his seat. He SLAMS his fist onto the table, frightening Secelia.

ANDROS

A wolf just doesn't disappear into thin air!

SECELIA

I'm sorry...

ANDROS

Don't be. Because this was no ordinary wolf, was it?

Secelia doesn't know what to say. She gazes off into space. Her silence answers Andros' question.

Gawain ponders on the concept.

GAWAIN

If it wasn't an ordinary wolf, then what is it?

ANDROS

Could be one of those Karias fellows you told me about.

ALKRIX

Not possible. The Karias may vary in six different types of species, each with different elements, but they only pertain to a humanoid form. A wolf Karias is unlikely.

ANDROS

How about a Spirit?

GAWAIN

No. Only Guardian Spirits have access to Spirits and as of now, you're the only one in Vestrill with that ability.

(beat)

But even if there were another Guardian Spirit in Vestrill, the Spirit and the person would have to be close to each other since they're linked. From Secelia's descriptions, she only saw a wolf.

Andros stares into space. There's one particular subject that's just eating at his mind...

ANDROS

Speaking of Spirits, where's my Spirit?

ALKRIX

Your Spirit's name is Crimson, one of the three legendary Spirits that lay in the gauntlets.

(beat)

Crimson may still be in his slumber inside the gauntlet until you prove yourself worthy to be the legendary Hero you're destined to be.

ANDROS

So I only have the gauntlet and my powers?

ALKRIX

Correct.

ANDROS

Okay, I'll manage then.

(beat)

Who's up for a hunting trip?!

Andros' moment of excitement is ruined by sounds of SCREAMING outside in the main court. He exchanges an unsettled look with everyone else.

**EXT. MAIN COURT - MOMENTS LATER**

Andros and Gawain rushes out to see a scene of chaos. People scurry across the court, picking up their kids, and running for their homes. Something has them spooked...

GAWAIN

What are they running from?

ANDROS

I don't know...

Andros glances around the court. A LOW GROWL emits from beyond. The growl INTENSIFIES. But only in Andros' head. He kneels, enduring the pain.

GAWAIN

Andros! What's wrong?

ANDROS

You can't hear it?!

GAWAIN

Hear what?

ANDROS

The growl! The wolf! It's here!

Gawain looks around for the wolf.

GAWAIN

Where?

ANDROS

Everywhere!

Above in the sky, the clouds unveil the FULL MOON as moon light spills into the court. As the light sprawls across the court, Andros and Gawain begin to see WOLVES scattered everywhere. The Wolves seem to be only visible with moonlight...

Andros, suddenly realising that he and Gawain are surrounded, springs up to his feet.

GAWAIN

Andros, I think I see them.

ANDROS

Uh-huh.

Andros and Gawain draw their swords. The Wolves POUNCE at them. Andros swiftly dodges and manages a slice in the Wolf, but the blade merely swims through.

Gawain thrusts his sword through a Wolf.

GAWAIN

Ha!

The Wolf slowly releases itself from the blade, its body transforming into mist.

As Andros and Gawain slam their backs against each other's, a fog begins to dominate the square.

ANDROS

Gawain! Something's not right!

GAWAIN

I know what you mean! Our weapons have no effect on them!

ANDROS

No! Not that. They're not trying to attack us!

GAWAIN

What?

ANDROS

Look!

Gawain browses through the wolves. Andros is right. The wolves are searching for something.

GAWAIN

They're all heading in the same direction.

ANDROS

Gawain...

GAWAIN

What?

ANDROS

What happened to Secelia?

Gawain and Andros suddenly realise that Secelia is gone.

They scurry across the square. Andros' eyes FLARE. Flames wrap around his arm until the Exodiac Caestu is summoned onto his arm. His claws releases a BALL OF FIRE that helps them navigate through the fog.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Secelia!

GAWAIN

Secelia?! Where are you?!

As Gawain shifts his head trying to see through the fog, he suddenly runs into Alkrix.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

My King!

ALKRIX

Gawain! Andros!

ANDROS

My King, is Secelia with you?

ALKRIX

I thought she was with you!

Andros gazes into the fog.

ANDROS

Where did she go?

**INT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS**

The forest is dominated by a gray, impenetrable wall of fog.

Wolves HOWL into the sky as Secelia frantically runs through the forest, her red cloak gliding with the wind. Her red cloak stands out in the fog - its the only colourful object.

Compared to the foggy atmosphere, she's just a small little red riding hood.

**END OF ACT TWO**

ACT THREE**INT. KING'S PALACE - ROYAL LIBRARY - LATE NIGHT**

A BOOMING slam of King Alkrix swinging open the doors to the Royal Library, where anyone can find an arsenal of books with a broad range of knowledge. It is a bookworm's heaven.

Alkrix leads Andros and Gawain to the centre of the Royal Library, marked by a GOLDEN ROUND TABLE.

ALKRIX

The Royal Library! We hold archives and books of every kind here. Feel free to take what you must for your search.

Andros WHIRLS around as he takes in the spectacular view of books. Everywhere he looks - books! The commodious room is filled with spirals, pillars, and towers of books!

ANDROS

Search?

GAWAIN

The search for Secelia. The more we know about the wolf, the more we can prepare ourselves against it.

ALKRIX

Indeed.

(beat)

I want her found!

Alkrix strides out the room, his feet STOMPING - the footsteps of a furious King.

ANDROS

We *will* find her.

Gawain gazes up at a bookcase that towers over him. An arduous task indeed.

GAWAIN

Andros!

No answer. Gawain pivots back to see that Andros has already started reading. In addition, he's holding five books in his arm.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Andros!!!

Gawain's bark suddenly SNAPS Andros back to reality, forcing him to drop all his books.

ANDROS

Yes?!

Gawain peers down at one of the books entitled *Lycanthropy*. He acknowledges that Andros has already started working...

GAWAIN

Back where you were.

Andros groans as he retrieves the fallen books, but decides to sit instead. He begins to dive into the worlds of fiction in the books around him.

Gawain blankly stares back at the bookcase. He browses through its feature, his finger carefully marking each book, until finally, he chooses the smallest book. This is going to be a long night...

#### INT. ANCIENT RUINS - CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Secelia awakens to find herself in a cold, damp cave-like atmosphere. She gathers her surroundings, filled with engravings on the walls. A CRACKED STONE TABLET lies in the heart of the cave with ANCIENT MARKINGS engraved into it. An archaic area indeed.

She sniffs in a foul smell as she cautiously rises. As she begins to process where she is, she frantically looks around for an escape. Instead, she finds, everywhere she looks - human skeletal remains.

She collapses with fear, weeping. A LOW GROWL ricochets from beyond the darkness. A scream escapes from Secelia --

#### INT. ROYAL LIBRARY - MORNING

-- and Andros is suddenly jolt back to reality as he springs up from his nap to see that books are sprawled across the table, Some turned to a specific page, others stacked unevenly.

GAWAIN

Decided to wake up I see. Good morning.

ANDROS

Sorry... it's already morning?! It was a long day yesterday, uh-- did you hear that?

GAWAIN

Hear what?

Andros glances around the room. Was he the only one who heard a scream?

ANDROS

Nothing. Must've had a nightmare.

He gazes into space, but Gawain interrupts--

GAWAIN

Well, what are you waiting for?

ANDROS

Sorry, what?

GAWAIN

Grab a book and get to it!

ANDROS

Of course!

Andros retrieves a book. He gently turns the pages, sensitive to the book's binding and well-being while Gawain carelessly flips every page as if he were about to rip it - the duo's contradicting nature.

Andros sighs as he closes his books and gently places it on top of his stack. Gawain SLAMS his book shut and slides it across the table.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Have you found anything about the wolf?

GAWAIN

Nothing.

Andros browses through the many books still left in the library. His attention returns to the desk as he skims through the books he has read, afraid he has missed something. Instead, he finds a book opened to a page with the title "NEO ESORDIO".

ANDROS

(retrieving the book)

Hey, Gawain, was this one of your books?

GAWAIN

Maybe.

ANDROS

The book about Neo?

Gawain analyses the book's features.

GAWAIN

Oh, yes. Wrong book. You can put that back if you want to, but hurry back. We still have more to read since we haven't found anything on the wolf.

Andros skims through the book's contents. The subject has clearly caught his full attention.

ANDROS

Esordio used to be a single world?

Gawain reaches for another book and starts reading, avoiding eye contact with Andros.

GAWAIN

During Neo's time, yes. After his powers were sealed, Neo's Spirit, Genesis divided Esordio into various worlds, and scattered the gauntlets.

(beat)

Then concealed Neo in an eternal curse among one of the worlds.

ANDROS

Which world?

GAWAIN

I don't know. It's just a story. I'm not even sure there are other worlds.

ANDROS

I'm a Guardian Spirit, am I not? Is that not enough to prove that there are other worlds?

GAWAIN

Before you even say you're a Guardian Spirit, it would be wonderful if you could comport yourself as befit your title. But to answer your question, perhaps...

Chastised, Andros buries his head in the text of a nearby book.

ANDROS

And there are two other gauntlets, correct?

GAWAIN

Yes.

ANDROS

The three gauntlets were separated, each containing two elemental powers of the original gauntlet - Neo's gauntlet.

(beat)

If I have one of these gauntlets and there are two more, does that mean there are two more legendary Guardian Spirits-- Heroes out there somewhere?

Gawain suddenly slams his book shut. Andros senses that Gawain does not wish to ponder upon the current topic.

GAWAIN

We need to focus on the wolf and *only* the wolf.

But Andros persists...

ANDROS

But Gawain! The more I learn about the gauntlet, the more abilities I can obtain from the gauntlet!

GAWAIN

And prepare yourself for your destined battle against Neo?

Andros' curiosity pales. He falls silent, knowing that Gawain is right.

ANDROS

There's nothing wrong with that...

GAWAIN

It's normal for you to be scared Andros, especially when you realise that you retain no memories of yourself.

ANDROS

I must know more about the Legend of Neo, Gawain.

Gawain acknowledges Andros' fear. He glares into Andros' sorrowful eyes - the eyes of a fallen warrior.

GAWAIN

I'll tell you the story that my parents had told me about Neo--

ANDROS

--Thank you!

GAWAIN

After we find Secelia and bring her back.

Andros suddenly stands and slams his fists onto the table, his blood boiling with confidence.

ANDROS

Let's find Secelia!

GAWAIN

We need to learn more about the wolf first.

ANDROS

These books are of no help thus far.

(beat)

Do you know anyone who might know about the origins of the wolf?

GAWAIN

Maybe. He's an expert on Esordian Myths and Legends, but he's a little unreliable...

ANDROS

Who?

GAWAIN

The court's physician: Thomas Brigham.

**INT. THOMAS' CHAMBERS - LATER**

Gawain and Andros enter the house. They look around to see various substances stored in phials, dried bones hung from the ceiling, and worn out books set on the table.

Andros proceeds to investigate the books. He skims through its contents as Gawain wanders around.

GAWAIN

(tentatively)

Hello? Thomas? Are you here?

Gawain steals a glance back at Andros. Andros closes the book and wanders into another room.

Andros turns the corner to see THOMAS BRIGHAM, a man born old and wrinkly, elevated on a ladder, skimming through books on a high bookshelf.

ANDROS

Thomas?

Thomas spins around in complete fright as he suddenly falls from the latter. As Thomas tumbles to his doom, Andros' eyes FLARE, suddenly slowing down Thomas' fall - it's ANDROS TIME. He spies a haystack at the corner. His eyes BLAZE. The haystack slides across the room and stops beneath Thomas. Time suddenly resumes at its normal speed as Thomas crashes down on the hay stack, blasting the surrounding area with a mixture of hay and dust.

Gawain rushes into the room to witness the fall.

GAWAIN  
Andros?! What happened?

ANDROS  
I just saved Thomas' life.

Thomas recovers from his fall as he retrieves his desired book from the floor.

THOMAS  
Yes, he did.

Thomas glances up at Andros. An unfamiliar face. Andros smiles back, but does not stir a reaction from Thomas. Thomas glances at Gawain and a smile blooms as he hugs Gawain.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
Sir Gawain! So nice to see you again!  
It's been so long!

GAWAIN  
Indeed it has.

Andros frowns. Why can't he deserve the same treatment Gawain is receiving?

Thomas' attention averts to Andros.

THOMAS  
And you are?

ANDROS  
(with a smile)  
I'm Andros!

THOMAS  
Ah, Sir Andros, pleasure to meet you!

GAWAIN  
Actually, Thomas, it's just Andros.

THOMAS  
Oh, really?

GAWAIN

Yes. Andros isn't a knight.

Andros forces a smile to Gawain, clearly taking offence at Gawain's correction. Thomas' attention returns to Andros as Andros quickly winces from Gawain and smiles back at Thomas.

THOMAS

I'm sorry, Andros.

ANDROS

I'm sure you mistake a lot of people with Gawain for knights.

THOMAS

No, not really.

ANDROS

(still smiling)  
Really?

THOMAS

Yes, um, Andy, what strikes me odd about you was how you stopped my fall. How did you do that?

ANDROS

It's Andros, sir. And I'm a Guardian Spirit.

Thomas walks arthritically, but determined. He leads Andros and Gawain into the living room.

THOMAS

Nonsense! Guardian Spirits are merely a myth.

ANDROS

But I saved your fall using my abilities. That has to count for something!

Thomas browses through an isle of phials.

THOMAS

(to himself - searching)  
Hmm let's see... infant's eye...

Andros and Gawain return each other an awkward expression. Thomas suddenly WHIRLS around, forcing Andros and Gawain to step backwards as they inadvertently knock down several bottles and phials placed on the table.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Oh! No, no! Tears of a Karias! Those  
are very rare to produce!

Andros makes a quick attempt to recover the fallen phials, but  
further the destruction as he knocks down more phials.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Stop, stop, just stop it!

Thomas slaps away Andros' hands. Gawain hems, quickly catching  
the duo's attention.

GAWAIN

Thomas!

THOMAS

Yes?

GAWAIN

We need information on a wolf.

THOMAS

Well there are plenty of wolves here  
in Vestrill. May I suggest the gray  
wolf for hunting; they make great  
sport!

GAWAIN

Thomas!

THOMAS

Yes?

GAWAIN

Not that type of wolf.

THOMAS

What do you mean?

ANDROS

(to Thomas)

The wolf we're talking about is a  
force that is impenetrable by mortal  
weapons and is able to disappear into  
the fog.

THOMAS

Oh, oh, yes, the Mist Wolf.

ANDROS

The Mist Wolf?

THOMAS

The what?

GAWAIN

(to Thomas)

You just said "Mist Wolf".

THOMAS

That's nonsense! You're just combining  
two words now, Gawain!

Thomas places down his gathered materials on the desk and proceeds toward a bookshelf. Andros and Gawain exchange a worried glance. This secret conversation calls for hushed voices.

ANDROS

I can see why you think he's  
unreliable.

GAWAIN

That crazy old man doesn't even  
remember his own words.

ANDROS

He didn't even finish talking about  
the subject of "Guardian Spirits".

(beat)

Why is he even working as a Court  
Physician?

GAWAIN

I ponder on that question as well...

Thomas realises he's forgetting something. He turns around to Gawain and Andros.

THOMAS

Oh! I just remembered! You're here for  
my famous tea, aren't you?

ANDROS

Sorry, what?

Thomas rushes to the back but Gawain calls him back--

GAWAIN

Thomas!

Thomas backtracks into the room.

THOMAS

Yes?

GAWAIN

We're not here for the tea. We're here about the wolf.

Thomas searches his thoughts for any clues on the wolf...

THOMAS

Oh... yes, the wolf.

ANDROS

Well? Do you know anything about it?

THOMAS

I'm sorry, but I can't help you. It is a force not to be reckoned with.

GAWAIN

So you *do* know about the wolf?

THOMAS

No! I don't!

Andros and Gawain exchange a look. It's obvious Thomas is lying.

GAWAIN

Thomas...

Andros steals a glance back at the room where Thomas had fallen. He notices a DECK OF CARDS sprawled across the floor underneath the haystack. As Gawain continues talking, Andros ventures off to investigate the cards.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

...We need your assistance in this matter. A young boy named Ethan was murdered in the woods last night, and now, our good friend Secelia has been taken.

Gawain talks in the B.G. as Andros retrieves a card. Esordian design. He gazes down at the back of the card. An INSIGNIA glares back. He's seen that insignia before... On Chronos. He slowly flips it to reveal...

...A WOLF. Similar to the ones that he and Gawain encountered. He reads the title of the card: "MIST WOLF".

THOMAS

I told you Gawain, I don't know anything!

Andros enters the room.

ANDROS

Thomas!  
(gesturing at the cards)  
Where did you get these?

Thomas' attention immediately turns to the cards.

THOMAS

(afraid he's been discovered)  
Nowhere. I found them.

ANDROS

You found them?

THOMAS

Yes...

Thomas rushes by and attempts to snatch the cards away, but Andros firmly holds on to them.

ANDROS

You're lying.

THOMAS

These cards are a powerful force,  
Andros. You do not want to possess  
these cards.

ANDROS

And yet you possess them.

THOMAS

These are special cards-- a  
collection!

ANDROS

I'll give them back to you if you tell  
me what you know about the wolf.

Thomas' thoughts debate on the decision. He glances back at Gawain, who sternly glares back. Thomas leans closer to Andros. The words Thomas is about to divulge are for Andros' ears only...

THOMAS

The wolf is an omen. A foreteller of  
destruction.

(beat)

If you really are a Guardian Spirit,  
then I'll warn you now. Worlds are  
converging, Hero. Don't believe me? Go  
to that "forest" where the wolf  
supposedly originated from.

ANDROS

But--

THOMAS

Shhh!

Thomas steals another glance back at Gawain. Gawain wraps his arms. This is useless to him. He knows he should've never went to see Thomas to begin with.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

If the worlds are converging, it means only one thing.

(beat)

Neo.

A surge of fear runs through Andros as his eyes widen at the mention of "Neo". He retains eye contact with Thomas as he secretly slides a card under his sleeve.

An impatient Gawain waits for a reaction.

GAWAIN

Well?!

ANDROS

Thank-you, Thomas.

Andros hands the remaining cards to Thomas.

THOMAS

My pleasure...

**EXT. MAIN COURT - MOMENTS LATER**

Andros nervously strides across the Main Court, avoiding eye contact with everyone. Gawain strides along with him.

GAWAIN

Andros!

Andros continues walking, lost in his own thoughts.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Andros!!!

Andros suddenly spins around in annoyance.

ANDROS

What?!

GAWAIN

What did Thomas tell you?

ANDROS

We need to return to the forest.

GAWAIN

Why?

ANDROS

The wolf is somehow connected to the forest...

GAWAIN

And?

ANDROS

I need to speak with the King.

**INT. KING'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM - LATER**

A magnificent CRIMSON CARPET bearing the ESORDIAN SYMBOL leads up to the King's GOLDEN THRONE, just inches away from the ROUND TABLE - an ancient symbolism of honour and royalty.

The King's SERVANTS stand near the doors.

Andros and Gawain accompany King Alkrix for lunch at the table.

ALKRIX

You're interested in maps?

ANDROS

Yes. Preferably the area Gawain was sent to investigate.

ALKRIX

And, if I may ask, why would you need to look at the map?

GAWAIN

We went to see Thomas, your majesty. Given his interest in legends and myths, I thought he would be helpful. Although from what I saw, he wasn't of much help, but from what I saw with him and Andros...

ANDROS

Thomas told me something, my King. Something troubling.

Alkrix stops eating. He gives Andros his full attention.

ALKRIX

Do tell, Andros. What did Thomas tell you?

Andros hesitates to disclose what Thomas had told him. He knows Thomas whispered the information for a reason.

ANDROS

Enough. He told me to return to the forest.

ALKRIX

Why?

Andros reveals the CARD he had stolen from Thomas.

ANDROS

I found this card.

He slides it across the table to Alkrix for a closer examination. Alkrix recognizes it, but pretends he doesn't.

ALKRIX

"Mist Wolf"?

ANDROS

Thomas hinted that the wolf is connected to the forest. I think if we were to return to the forest, we would find Secelia there.

Alkrix acknowledges Andros' plan. He signals a SERVANT. The Servant approaches him.

ALKRIX

Bring me a map of Vestrill.

SERVANT

Yes, my lord.

The Servant returns with a MAP. Alkrix lays it across the table. Gawain analyses the map. His eyes frown...

GAWAIN

That's weird...

ANDROS

What?

Gawain points out his location as he explains.

GAWAIN

I found you in a forest. According to this map, there is no forest. There should be a hill instead.

ANDROS

Interesting...

(to Alkrix)

My King, we're going to need to get to the forest before nightfall.

Alkrix signals SERVANT #2.

SERVANT #2

You need assistance, my majesty?

ALKRIX

Prepare two horses.

Servant #2 nods and exits.

ALKRIX (CONT'D)

Gawain.

GAWAIN

Yes?

ALKRIX

You are my best knight.

(beat)

Make sure Secelia is safe.

Gawain nods. Alkrix slides the card back to Andros.

ALKRIX (CONT'D)

You may need this, Andros...

Andros nods. He and Gawain rises as they exit the room. Alkrix signals the SERVANTS to leave the room as well.

CHRONOS

Hello, Alkrix.

Alkrix glares sternly at Chronos.

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

My apologies. Hello, my King.

ALKRIX

I knew you would come see me when the boy showed me the card.

CHRONOS

I'm afraid the truth is too close to you. If he discovers your plans of deception and manipulation, it could jeopardize *my* plans.

ALKRIX

Everything will be fine, Chronos, as long as you accompany the boy and help him in any way you can.

CHRONOS

And if he is to discover the truth?

ALKRIX

Relax. It is all part of the plan...

CHRONOS

This grand plan of yours worries me.

Alkrix smiles.

ALKRIX (O.C.)

Andros is on his way to the forest right now. There, he will discover something... And my plan for him will begin.

**EXT. FOREST - ENTRANCE - SUNSET**

The evening sun's rays begin to vanish as darkness begins to slowly dominate the forest. The serene atmosphere from seconds earlier has now just turned into a malevolent nature of sorts. Anyone who enters the forest at night is forced to be prudent, fearing for their life. A THICK FOG forms...

Two horses GALLOP along a tortuous trail, until finally, the stallions come to an immediate halt at the entrance to the forest. The horses suddenly JUMP with a start, throwing Andros and Gawain off, then proceeds to fleeing the scene.

Andros and Gawain recover from their fall.

GAWAIN

The same thing happened when I first entered the forest. I had to go continue by foot!

ANDROS

They say horses dislike venturing into evil places...

GAWAIN

Remind me, why are we here?

ANDROS

(an observation)  
Gawain, the fog.

GAWAIN

Yes, it's very foggy, Andros.

Andros kneels down. He gazes at something we do not see.

ANDROS

No, look. The fog...

Gawain glances down at the ground. The "spectacle" the duo are absorbed to remains a mystery --

GAWAIN

That's impossible...

-- and we finally see that the fog only lingers inside the forest. There is a clear division marking the entrance to the forest and the rest of Vestrill.

Andros slowly rises.

ANDROS

Wanna know why the forest isn't on the map?

Andros' eyes FLARE. The perimeter of the forest is set aflame! The fire rises to the top and vanishes, remaining innocuous to the leaves and dried branches - an indication flame that something is out of the ordinary.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Cos this forest is not part of this world...

This frightens Andros...

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR****INT. ANCIENT RUINS - CAVERN - LATE NIGHT**

A BLISTERING HOWL echoes through the shallow ruins. Secelia forces herself against a wall as the Wolf deliberately approaches her. She supplicates for her life with useless pleas. Fortunately for her, this is no ordinary wolf...

SECELIA

Please! No! No! Spare me, please!

As the Wolf comes closer, it breathes down her neck as she attempts to gain as much distance away from it as possible. But the Wolf, realising that Secelia is uncomfortable, morphs into the form of a Little Girl - for comfort.

LITTLE GIRL

Don't be afraid, Secelia.

Secelia is reluctant to trust the Wolf, even if its in the form of a little girl.

SECELIA

What are you?

The Little Girl leans closer. Secelia winces, but falls for her innocence, realising that she's trying to tell her something.

The Little Girl begins to sing in ancient Esordian, almost under her breath, a lugubrious tune, forcing Secelia into a trance...

**INT. FOREST - FARTHER IN - CONTINUOUS**

Andros and Gawain follow a serpentine trail. Gawain continues on as Andros comes to a halt. From somewhere afar, he hears a voice singing, as if to him, under her breath, with careful lyrics that lure him into a trance.

Gawain notices.

GAWAIN

Andros?

Andros remains still.

FLASH of Secelia.

FLASH of the Little Girl.

FLASH of an ancient ruins.

Suddenly, Andros' eyes FLARE. A CIRCLE OF FIRE immediately surrounds Gawain. The singing continues...

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Andros! What's happening!

The flames come alive! It attacks Gawain, but Gawain is luckily able to dodge. But not for too long...

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Andros! Andros!

Gawain briefly looks through the flames to catch a glimpse of Andros' eyes glowing GOLD. This isn't the same Andros from moments before...

Gawain struggles to keep up with the fire.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Andros?! A little help here!

The singing stops as Andros immediately comes to *his* senses. The flames surrounding Gawain pale. Andros realises the grave mistake he has conjured.

ANDROS

I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!

GAWAIN

What happened?!

ANDROS

I don't know...

Andros glances around for the source of the singing voice...

ANDROS (CONT'D)

I thought I heard someone singing...

GAWAIN

Singing?

ANDROS

Yes.

(beat)

I have a feeling we're close to Secelia. I'm certain .

Something RUSTLES in the bushes. Andros and Gawain quickly slam their back against each other's - ready for battle.

GAWAIN

That fire could've attracted the forest's inhabitants.

ANDROS

And what exactly are the forest's inhabitants?

A VINE suddenly SNAPS on to Andros' legs and TUGS him away, dragging him across the dirt. Gawain reacts swiftly. He draws his sword and slices the vine away.

GAWAIN

You just had to ask.

Andros springs up, brushing dirt off.

ANDROS

Sorry! It's not everyday I get to wander around a forest that's from another world!

Gawain ignores Andros' sarcasm to take a moment to browse through the unfamiliar location. He thinks. *Weren't we in a clearing?* Now they're in an unknown part of the forest, far from the trail they were using as a guide, with no clue which direction to go.

GAWAIN

Andros... We're lost.

ANDROS

No! Lost is when you've got no idea where to go.

GAWAIN

Really?

ANDROS

Yes!

GAWAIN

(gesturing at the forest)  
Lead the way!

Gawain watches Andros navigate towards the left. Towards the right. And back to where he was. Andros spins around to concede the inevitable fact.

ANDROS

Gawain?

GAWAIN

Yes?

ANDROS

I think we're lost...

GAWAIN

Mmhmm.

Andros and Gawain helplessly stand still. Suddenly, out of nowhere, appears Chronos. Andros is the first to notice. Perhaps the only one to notice...

ANDROS

Chronos!

Gawain turns to Andros. We see that from Gawain's P.O.V., he only sees Andros.

GAWAIN

Who's Chronos?

Chronos towers behind Andros.

CHRONOS

Only you can see me, Andros. You may want to inform Gawain of who this "Chronos" is before he sees you as another Thomas.

Andros races through his dodging and shifting thoughts for a lie. The mention of "Thomas" aids him in his search.

ANDROS

Chronos? Where did you get that from?!  
I said almost!

GAWAIN

Almost what?

ANDROS

It's almost time for dinner! I'm  
starving!

GAWAIN

Andros, you're thinking about dinner  
right now?

ANDROS

Not a crime...

GAWAIN

No, but if you are thinking of dinner,  
then think that you *will* be dinner if  
you can't help us reach Secelia before  
the forest's creatures reach us.

CHRONOS

(to Andros)  
Don't talk back, just listen.  
(MORE)

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

I can help you navigate through the forest. How you ask? With your Darkness ability. Thus far, you've been using your Fire ability; now it's time for you to conjure your Darkness ability.

(beat)

Close your eyes...

Andros shuts his eyes tight as he follows Chronos' instructions...

CHRONOS (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Good. Now, relax. Let your feet sink into the forest, as if you are a part of the forest. Feel the nature and the force that resides in this forest. Don't look with your eyes, but with your mind...

His eyes suddenly SNAP OPEN with a deep gasp of air. Andros' eyes GLOOM with a foggy texture - his Darkness ability, enabling him to gaze through the shadows.

FLASH of a hidden forest trail leading to a STEAMING RIVER.

FLASH of a LARGE OAK TREE with an ancient Esordian dialect carved into it.

FLASH of a clearing surrounded by five trees, the centre marked by a STONE TABLET. Vaguely archaic.

And all the flashes come rushing back until Andros is JOLT back to reality, forcing him to wince and collapse to the ground. Gawain hurries to help Andros.

GAWAIN

Andros! What happened?

Andros slowly recovers as his eyes return to normal. He notices Chronos is gone, but with his newfound ability, he will be able to navigate through the forest by himself.

He looks up at Gawain with a comforting smile.

ANDROS

I know where Secelia is.

**INT. FOREST (NEAR STEAMING RIVER) - LATER**

Andros quickly guides Gawain through a trail hidden by fallen leaves. He stops at a slope to see the STEAMING RIVER he had foreseen. Gawain arrives at the slope. Andros smiles.

ANDROS

Almost there...

GAWAIN

How do you know we're heading in the right path?

ANDROS

Trust me...

Andros' eyes SHADOW. We share his P.O.V. as he ZOOMS across the river towards an OAK TREE not far ahead. And he FLASHES back to his present view as he frantically slides down the slope and runs through the river. Gawain trails him.

From a distance, a SHADOW Karias spies. Its appearance is like death, with a skeleton figure for its physical and a dark fog that covers its body for its color. Its deadly features are its claws and a flexible mouth that can devour anything.

**INT. FOREST (NEAR OAK TREE) - MOMENTS LATER**

Andros and Gawain race for the LARGE OAK TREE. Gawain arrives first.

GAWAIN

Okay, what now?

ANDROS

We check...

Andros scrutinizes the tree for the carving he had seen in his flash. It's subtle, but he spots it. An ancient Esordian dialect.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Gawain, do you know what this means?

Andros points at the dialect for Gawain to see. Gawain squints, thinking hard.

GAWAIN

I don't know much about the Ancients' language, but I believe this stands for...

(beat)

"Death".

The duo exchange an unsettling look at translation.

ANDROS

Well, it's for certain that we're close now.

GAWAIN

I concur.

Gawain catches sight of something move past behind them at BLINDING speed.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Did you see that?

Andros pivots around nonchalantly.

ANDROS

See what?

Gawain shakes off the thought of something watching them from beyond the darkness.

GAWAIN

Nothing. Let's hurry up and find Secelia before the forest starts affecting us in ways unimaginable.

ANDROS

Gawain, are you hallucinating?

GAWAIN

No!

ANDROS

Be honest with me, have you been picking up certain herbs on our way here?

GAWAIN

What?! No!

ANDROS

If you're going to keep lying then--

GAWAIN

--Andros! Focus! Where do we go next?!

ANDROS

"Andros do this!" "Andros do that!"

(beat)

Can you for once ask me a simple question to know me better? For example, "What's your favourite colour?". If you did that more often, I think I'd be more willing to help you, Gawain!

(beat)

I'm not your pet!

Gawain sighs. Is Andros really complaining about this?

GAWAIN

What's your favourite colour?

ANDROS

You don't mean that.

GAWAIN

No, no, I do. I really want to know what your favourite colour is.

Andros thinks.

ANDROS

I don't remember...

The duo immense in a tense awkward silence. That brief moment was clearly both stupid and useless for both of them.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Okay, well, that didn't work out so I'll just...

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Look for our path.

GAWAIN

Yes, you do that.

Andros shakes off all his thoughts and feelings. He gently closes his eyes to soothe himself and breathes steadily to temperate his heart beat. His eyes suddenly JOLT open.

Andros' eyes GLOOM.

The path ahead unveils itself to him as we dive into his P.O.V.. We experience numerous twists and turns, until finally, we come to an IMMEDIATE HALT at the sight of a clearing surrounded by FIVE TREES. A high-pitched noise ECHOES from beyond...

Andros struggles to venture deeper, but with each attempt, the lingering image BLURS. It's as if something beyond were preventing him to venture farther. The high-pitched sound RESONATES...

CHRONOS (V.O.)

Andros, stop! You're resonating!

Andros makes his last attempt to dive deeper...

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

Andros!!!

The lingering image suddenly emits a BRIGHT FLASH as Andros is suddenly flung back to reality!

As his conscious is absorbed back into his body, an invisible and powerful force BLASTS him away. His back slams against a tree as he collapses. Gawain quickly rushes to his aid.

GAWAIN

Andros!

Andros slowly recovers. Blood trickles down from his nose.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Andros, you're hurt!

Andros feels the blood. He wipes it off, sniffs, and stands.

ANDROS

It's nothing. I'm fine.

(beat)

I know where to go next.

GAWAIN

No! You need to rest for awhile.

ANDROS

No! I'll manage! We're almost there!

GAWAIN

Are you sure?

ANDROS

As always.

(pointing at the direction)

We go this way.

Gawain glares sternly at Andros. He clearly does not believe Andros' assertion that he'll manage the rest of the way.

GAWAIN

Andros, keep in mind that you're not a knight. You're a minor.

ANDROS

I'm a Guardian Spirit!

GAWAIN

A Guardian Spirit with no memories!

Andros falls silent. He knows Gawain's right.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

A Guardian Spirit who remembers nothing is no better than a knight with no training.

Andros acknowledges Gawain's words...

ANDROS

You're right.  
(beat)  
I'll try to know my limits.

GAWAIN

Good. Cos then, I'll have one less  
body to clean up at the end of the  
day.

ANDROS

That kind of work does fit an arse.

Gawain chuckles.

GAWAIN

You can't call me that.

ANDROS

Oh, that's right, you're a knight! I  
meant a noble arse.

The duo share a laugh. Gawain leans over. He lifts his fist and suddenly swings a punch at Andros.

GAWAIN

Still think you'll manage?

Andros quickly recovers.

ANDROS

Not as weak as you thought I was...

GAWAIN

Good, a thousand more of those and  
you'll be ready to be a knight!

ANDROS

You're funny. You'll see I'm worthy  
when I find Secelia!

GAWAIN

Please, do lead the way.

Andros' eyes FLARE. A FIREBALL forms in the air - serving as a source of light to ward off darkness. Unfortunately, it cannot ward off creatures that are formed from darkness. The Shadow Karias stalks its prey from behind a tree. Observing. Studying. Planning.

**INT. FOREST CLEARING - LATER**

The fireball leads Andros and Gawain into the clearing. Gawain quickly rushes towards the centre, but Andros remains outside the clearing. Something's on his mind...

As he takes his first step into the clearing, the high-pitched noise from earlier RESONATES in his ears, forcing him to collapse to the ground with an AGONIZING SCREAM. Gawain spins around, but in the middrift of his turn, Andros' eyes FLARE as time decelerates. It's ANDROS TIME.

The noise mellows as Andros regains his senses.

CHRONOS (O.C.)

You're resonating again.

ANDROS

Resonating? What do you mean?

CHRONOS

A Guardian Spirit resonates off the energy of a nearby Guardian Spirit.

ANDROS

Another Guardian Spirit is here?!

CHRONOS

Most likely. But whoever it was is gone now.

(beat)

The stronger you resonate, the stronger the connection. Judging from what you felt, I'd say his power is equivalent to that of a legendary Guardian Spirit.

ANDROS

There's another gauntlet wielder?!

CHRONOS

Yes. But be warned Andros, your lack of memory is a vulnerability. You're just getting used to resonating, and I assure you, it's bound to happen more often.

ANDROS

Help me locate him, Chronos! Maybe he knows something about me!

CHRONOS

No.

ANDROS

What?

CHRONOS

You must find answers on your own. I may be assisting you, but that is only what I'll do. Assist.

ANDROS

Then why are you helping me?!

CHRONOS

Because as many answers as I may have for you, the real answer lies within yourself. It's not what you don't remember, it's what you *must* remember.

ANDROS

What do you mean?

Chronos raises his hand. Andros realises what Chronos is about to do...

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Chronos! No, no, you can't do this yet! I need to--

Chronos snaps his fingers as time resumes at its normal speed.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Know...

Gawain finishes his turn.

GAWAIN

Andros?!

Andros saunters towards Gawain, hiding signs of pain and the conversation he just had with Chronos.

ANDROS

I'm fine, Gawain.

GAWAIN

You sure?

ANDROS

Yes, I'm sure!

Andros examines his surroundings. He notices a STONE TABLET in the center of the clearing. Vaguely Esordian. With archaic, incomprehensible symbols engraved into it. The symbols are accompanied by drawings.

Gawain runs his finger through the first line of symbols.

GAWAIN

I'm not sure what this means, but it's  
in regards to your gauntlet.

ANDROS

The Exodiac Caestu?

Andros' eyes FLARE. Flames wrap around his arm and suddenly  
DISSIPATE to reveal the Exodiac Caestu! The Exodiac Caestu  
suddenly LUSTERS along with the stone tablet - a reaction.

GAWAIN

Your gauntlet is reacting. Try  
touching the tablet with it?

Andros proceeds to follow Gawain's instruction. He gently  
places his hand on the stone tablet. The suspense grows as the  
duo wait for a reaction...

Nothing.

The Shadow Karias spies on Andros and Gawain...

ANDROS

Maybe I'm doing it wrong.  
(repositioning his hand)  
Maybe like this? Or like this? Or--

GAWAIN

--Andros, it's not working!

The Exodiac Caestu continues to GLOW.

ANDROS

Well, there has to be something more!

Chronos suddenly appears behind Gawain. Andros can only stare.

GAWAIN

Andros, are you okay?

ANDROS

Yes, why wouldn't I be?

GAWAIN

You're staring at me. Stop it.

ANDROS

Oh...

Andros turns and directs his attention to the tablet. Chronos  
appears alongside him.

CHRONOS

Your gauntlet isn't reacting to the tablet. Crimson is.

Andros thinks...

He closes his eyes, navigating through his thoughts, trying to locate what Crimson may be trying to say. His eyes suddenly SNAP OPEN. Andros' eyes BLAZE. A TRAIL OF FIRE is set ablaze throughout the clearing!

Gawain hurries to Andros' side. As the trail comes to an end, we see that the fire has carved out an Esordian symbol in the clearing. The tablet reacts. It suddenly slides open to reveal a secret path way.

GAWAIN

And the path is found yet again...

Gawain and Andros gaze down at the revealed path. They venture in...

**INT. ANCIENT RUINS - CONTINUOUS**

The ruins is completely dominated by darkness. Andros' eyes FLARE as torches along the walls LIGHT UP, creating a path throughout the ruins.

GAWAIN

(tentatively)  
Secelia?

Andros' eyes GLOOM. But only for a brief moment.

ANDROS

Gawain... I don't think she's here.

GAWAIN

What?! You led us here, Andros!

ANDROS

I know! But maybe there's something here that can help us. We just need to keep looking...

GAWAIN

If we don't find Secelia--

ANDROS

We will.

Andros confidently stares into Gawain's eyes.

GAWAIN

Okay.

As Andros and Gawain cautiously walk along the path, their attention turns to the walls, filled with paintings depicting the story of two wolves...

ANDROS

Gawain...

Andros uncovers the card he had stolen from Thomas. He compares it with the painting.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

The painting...

Gawain reads off Esordian text engraved along the painting...

GAWAIN

It tells the story of two wolves: the Mist Wolf and the Shrouded Wolf. They're guardians of this forest with a unique ability to conjure illusions.

ANDROS

This card says "Mist Wolf".

GAWAIN

And who do we know that is in possession of these cards?

Andros thinks. There's only one person they both know.

ANDROS

Thomas.

GAWAIN

He has Secelia, Andros!

ANDROS

Are you sure?!

A figure moves past behind Andros at BLINDING speed. Gawain notices. He swiftly reaches for his sword and spins around. He's a tad too quick and a split-second too late, as something powerful TOSSES him away.

Andros' eyes SHADOW. Gawain's fall SLOWS as he's suddenly brought back to his feet. As Andros' attention averts back to the figure, he's suddenly attacked by swift claws!

Andros manages to catch the arm for a moment to finally get a glimpse at the Shadow Karias, its mouth drooling with hunger. Andros screams, winces, and beats a hasty retreat outside.

**EXT. ANCIENT RUINS - MOMENTS LATER**

As Andros and Gawain resurface to the forest, they find themselves surrounded by the SHADOW Karias.

GAWAIN

Thomas planned the whole thing! He sent us into the forest as a trap!

A Karias strides forth and CLAWS at Andros, ripping apart a portion of his blood stained shirt.

ANDROS

I really need a garment change!

Andros' eyes FLARE. A FIREBALL blasts the Karias away! He moves in on another Karias and thrusts his claws through it. Gawain covers Andros.

GAWAIN

There's too many! We need to go back to Thomas!

ANDROS

I agree!

A Karias RIPS another portion of Andros' shirt as the CARD Andros had stolen falls out. The Karias reaches for it, but Andros' eyes GLOOM. The Karias is sent flying away. Andros quickly retrieves the card.

The duo continues fighting an impossible battle...

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Gawain! They're attracted to the card!

GAWAIN

The wolf card?!

ANDROS

What other card is there?!!

GAWAIN

Understood!

Andros' eyes BLAZE. A FIREBALL forms in the centre of the clearing and EXPLODES as Andros tackles Gawain to the ground. The flames incinerate all the Karias at once - a smart and impressive move.

ANDROS

How many times have I saved your life now?

Gawain pushes Andros off, ignoring him.

GAWAIN

No time for that. Let's hurry back to Vestrill!

**EXT. THOMAS' HOUSE - LATE NIGHT**

Gawain and Andros stand outside of Thomas' house, accompanied by a GROUP OF SOLDIERS. Gawain slams his fist onto the door.

GAWAIN

Thomas Brigham! By the laws of Vestrill, you are under arrest!

Andros' eyes SHADOW. A powerful force BLASTS the door open.

Andros and Gawain hurry in, but to only see the unexpected. Broken phials everywhere. Collapsed furniture. Fallen books. Gawain signals the soldiers to move in.

ANDROS

What happened?

GAWAIN

I don't know...

SOLDIER

Sir Gawain! You may want to see this...

Andros exchanges an unsettling glance with Gawain. The Soldier leads the duo to another room, where they see something we do not see. Judging from their expressions, it's horrific...

GAWAIN

Oh, Thomas...

And we finally see Thomas. Dead, with his eyes balls melted out of its sockets - clearly a sign that he had seen something he wasn't supposed to.

Andros notices something written behind Thomas. Something written in BLOOD. He gently moves Thomas away to see the message: "NEO". Could this be a warning or the identity of Thomas' killer?

**END OF ACT FOUR**

ACT FIVE**INT. THOMAS' CHAMBERS - LATE NIGHT**

An exhausted Andros lays his back against a wall. He gazes down at the card. The wolf stares back. Gawain paces around the room.

GAWAIN

We must've missed something!

ANDROS

Gawain, it's hopeless...

GAWAIN

No, it's not!

ANDROS

We're never going to find Secelia...  
I've failed you, Gawain. I've failed  
the King... I've failed all of you.

Gawain notices that Andros hasn't taken his eyes off the card. He absorbs this. He kneels down beside Andros and gives him a brotherly smile.

GAWAIN

Andros, you have to know that not every moment can be a victory. You're a Guardian Spirit, remember? You should know that Guardian Spirits are known for their courage and persistence.

ANDROS

No, Gawain! I'm a Guardian Spirit with no memories. If I can't even use my abilities to its fullest, what have I got? Without them, I'm a 'nobody' - always will be. I might as well die - just let Neo kill me!

Gawain does not know how to solace Andros.

Upset, Andros tosses the card to the side and heads towards the door. Gawain watches - he knows that Andros, Guardian Spirit or not, is just like everyone else: human.

Andros prepares to walk out...

GAWAIN

Andros!

Andros looks back at Gawain. He's still upset...

ANDROS

Why can't anyone help me, Gawain?

Gawain approaches Andros - unprepared for this.

GAWAIN

Andros...

But Andros is still angry...

ANDROS

Why?!

GAWAIN

Sometimes... things happen for a reason.

ANDROS

So I lost my memories for a reason?

GAWAIN

Perhaps...

ANDROS

What reason could there be?!

GAWAIN

(unsure to answer)

Well... a Guardian Spirit must have patience. Answers come in various forms, you know.

ANDROS

Then tell me why I can't just remember.

GAWAIN

Perhaps someone with much greater knowledge--

ANDROS

--If you can't tell me, then no one can!

Gawain feels this.

GAWAIN

Andros, answers aren't like that. They don't lie around, waiting for you to find them. You *must* be patient.

ANDROS

You know, I find it funny sometimes whenever I think this through in my head. The fact that I'm this... "Guardian Spirit". It sometimes drives me mad and thusfar, I've been wondering...

(beat)

I trust you, Gawain. Maybe there is a reason for why I lost my memories. And I wonder what if... What if I wasn't a good person? What if I was a monster...?

Andros searches Gawain's eyes. Gawain can only stare at Andros' pained expression.

GAWAIN

No, no, don't you ever think that!

ANDROS

It's like there's two sides of me...

Andros thinks through his words...

ANDROS (CONT'D)

(a realisation)

Two sides.

Andros smiles. Gawain sees Andros' sudden excitement.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Two sides, Gawain! Two sides!

GAWAIN

What is it?

ANDROS

There are two wolves, right?

GAWAIN

Correct.

ANDROS

And we found a card entitled "Mist Wolf" in Thomas' possession.

GAWAIN

Yes. Where is this leading to?

ANDROS

Think, Gawain! If there are two wolves and we only have one card, and Thomas doesn't have the other....

Gawain searches through his thoughts. He receives the theory Andros is trying to portray.

GAWAIN

Then there's someone else in possession of the second card.

ANDROS

Precisely!

Andros is back to being his 'old', free-spirited self as he hurries to retrieve the card. He tosses it high in the air until catching it and suddenly flinging it towards Gawain.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Catch!

The card swiftly slices through a bit of skin on Gawain's finger before he has a chance to react.

GAWAIN

Ow!

Gawain quickly tends to his wound, sucking on the cut. Andros, realising what he has done, hurries to Gawain.

ANDROS

Gawain, I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!

GAWAIN

You know, Andros, there are times when you impress me, and times when you annoy me...

Andros chuckles nervously. He does not notice the card GLOWING. Suddenly, a blinding FLASH dominates the room...

Fog lingers in the room. It's gotten a lot cooler, as shown by the build up of MIST on glass. A figure slowly emerges. Its breath, animal like...

And Andros and Gawain come into contact with the MIST WOLF.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

This can't be happening...

MIST WOLF

What do you seek, master?

ANDROS

Did that wolf just talk? And did it just call you "master"?

(dismayed)

This can't really be happening!

Andros retrieves the fallen card. He examines the blood. Could it be that Gawain's blood 'activated' the card?

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Gawain... I think that's the Mist Wolf, and these cards are Spirit Cards, capable of, well, summoning Spirits!

GAWAIN

Thomas found a way to indirectly summon a Spirit?

ANDROS

It appears that way!

Gawain turns to the Mist Wolf.

GAWAIN

Tell me, wolf, are you connected to your... Other part? The Shrouded Wolf?

MIST WOLF

Our connection is strong. I can sense him... Close by...

Andros and Gawain quickly exchange a glance.

ANDROS/GAWAIN

It's close to here?

MIST WOLF

Very. Would you like me to guide you?

GAWAIN

Yes! Take us to the Shrouded Wolf!

**INT. KING'S PALACE - DUNGEONS - LATER**

Well lit torches warmly spill in the dungeon. While the PRISONERS are asleep, TWO GUARDS are playing dice - very much awake.

The Mist Wolf suddenly rushes by. A SWIRL OF FOG accompanies it as the torches are suddenly blown out. The Guards react. They scan the darkness... They spot a set of eyes FLARE as the flames on the torches suddenly revive to reveal Andros and Gawain.

GUARD #1

Sir Gawain! Andros!

Andros' face grimaces at the mention of his name.

GAWAIN

What's the matter Andros? You want the title "Sir"?

ANDROS

Well, I am a Guardian Spirit...

GUARD #2

Of course you are, Sir Andros!

Andros smiles. He wraps his arm around GUARD #2.

ANDROS

Oh! I like you! When this whole mess is over, with the wolf, come talk to me and maybe you can replace my best friend.

GUARD #2

Who's your best friend?

Gawain intrudes on the conversation.

GAWAIN

It's not me.

ANDROS

(to Gawain)  
It's you.

GAWAIN

(to Guard #2)  
It's not.

ANDROS

(to Guard #1)  
It is.

GUARD #2

Right...

Guard #2 smiles and beats a hasty retreat to his colleague. Andros and Gawain peer at them.

ANDROS

Look what you did, Gawain. You scared him away!

GAWAIN

I'm pretty sure he's not the first...

Gawain approaches the Guards, leaving Andros alone.

ANDROS

So there have been others?!

Gawain ignores Andros.

GAWAIN

(to Guards)

Which way did the wolf go?

GUARD #1

Is that the wolf that took Secelia?

GAWAIN

No. Similar, but no. It's helping us.

GUARD #1

Well, it looked like it was heading for the cave.

GUARD #2

I'm sorry, sir, but that area is off limits to anyone. Even you.

GAWAIN

Off limits? The King ordered us to find Secelia! And that's what we're doing. And in order to find her, we must follow the wolf, which entered the cave.

ANDROS

What's down there anyway?

The Guards exchange a quick glance. Andros displays his intuition...

ANDROS (CONT'D)

You don't know.

GUARD #1

Well--

ANDROS

--No need to defend yourself. You report to the King when you see someone go into the cave, correct?

GUARD #2

(unsure how to reply)

Yes.

ANDROS

Good.

Andros' eyes SHADOW. The torches blow out, and flares back to life to reveal that Andros and Gawain are gone. The Guards exchange a confused expression. Then peers at the entrance to the cave.

GUARD #2

Did he just slip by us?

GUARD #1

Do we report to the King?

GUARD #2

Well, we didn't see them.

Guard #1 acknowledges this fact. He realises what Andros has done...

GUARD #1

You're right, we didn't see them. I guess we don't have to report to the King.

GUARD #2

Less work for us.

Guard #1 nods. The duo take their seats to resume their game.

#### **INT. KING'S PALACE - CAVERN - MOMENTS LATER**

A long tortuous tunnel falls away at a steep angle. Andros and Gawain descend into the darkness, unsure of what they might find. Suddenly, an old rushlight on the wall flares to life. Andros looks surprised - this is clearly not of his doing.

One by one, a series of torches burst into flame, lighting the path ahead, and leading Andros and Gawain on... The duo share a worried glance.

ANDROS

Secelia's somewhere in here.

GAWAIN

Come on, let's find the wolf.

ANDROS

(correcting)  
"Wolves".

Gawain could care less. He quickens his steps. Suddenly, the Mist Wolf emerges from a wall. It transforms into a ghostly fog as it guides him and Andros.

**INT. CAVERN (ANCIENT RUINS) - CONTINUOUS**

We find ourselves staring into a strange, convex black mirror. But slowly realise it's not a mirror - it's Secelia's eyes. They LUSTER. Something's flooding into her mind...

Secelia suddenly wakes up with a start, screaming hysterically. She frantically glances around to find herself placed on the stone tablet. She sits up to find the Little Girl gazing up at her from the ground.

LITTLE GIRL

Good, you're awake. They're here...

SECELIA

Who?!

LITTLE GIRL

Your friend.

(beat)

And *him*.

Secelia frowns. She thinks. *Who's "him"?*

**INT. CAVERN (SPIRAL STAIRCASE)**

The tunnel gets narrower and narrower until the duo are forced to be virtually bent. Finally, they turn the corner to find themselves faced with nothing but darkness. They swallow hard and control their fear as they lean out the tunnel to be faced with a SPIRAL STAIRCASE. Archaic. It looks like it would crumble and fall at any given moment. The Mist Wolf returns to its original form as it gently descends into the darkness.

The duo is left gazing into the void. As they take their first step, a hanging torch blazes to life. Slowly and cautiously, they continue to walk down the spiral staircase and, with each step they take, the next torch ahead burns to life.

As more torches reveal the path below, we can only see an abyss...

ANDROS

Do you know what I keep asking myself,  
Gawain?

GAWAIN

I don't care.

ANDROS

(disregarding Gawain's  
comment)

Why did the Karias want that man dead?  
That man being condemned?

(MORE)

ANDROS (CONT'D)

You remember the fellow, the one you tried to replace me with?

GAWAIN

Of course I remember! I never forget someone who I try to save.

ANDROS

Except, by saving him, you were betraying me, and you were betraying me under your own assumptions, because as it turns out, I wasn't the killer--

GAWAIN

Cos it turns out the real killer is actually a vanishing beast... Not every day you get to say that.

ANDROS

Yes, but why did reason did they have to kill him?

GAWAIN

It proved Thomas to be guilty. He conspired with the Karias, and he paid the price.

ANDROS

Playing with fire, only to be burned by fire.

GAWAIN

Precisely.

ANDROS

The Karias killed Thomas because he was already a dead man - to them at least.

Andros takes an interest in the wall accompanying the torches. The wall appears to be a PICTOGRAM depicting the story of Neo. His rise and his fall. The story unveils itself with every step the duo takes.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Gawain, what can you gather from this wall?

Gawain suddenly stops. Andros, distracted by the pictogram, bumps into Gawain.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Sorry!

GAWAIN

It depicts the story of Neo. His rise and his fall.

Gawain slides his finger against the wall as he continues descending the spiral staircase. Andros quickens his steps.

Gawain reads the story as it tells...

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Back in the time of the Ancients, there was a charming prince named Neo, who was destined for greatness.

ANDROS

Charming? I didn't know charming included destroying worlds.

GAWAIN

Do you want to know the story or not?

Andros wordlessly apologises. Gawain continues...

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

A natural born fighter, Neo conquered many lands. Aiding Neo in his battles was his unique ability to conjure the powers of the six elements: Water, Fire, Earth, Wind, Light, and Darkness. In addition, he wielded a prestigious gauntlet that proved him a Hero. The gauntlet sealed what the Ancients called a "Spirit", powerful beings that could conjure one of the six elements, but in Neo's case, his spirit, Genesis, could conjure them all.

ANDROS

(admiring)

The ultimate spirit.

GAWAIN

Neo's destiny was to defeat the Karias, a demonic counterpart of the Spirits, although they also possess the ability to conjure one of the six elements.

(beat)

Neo became known as a "Guardian Spirit", a knight who could fuse his mind, body, and soul with a Spirit, thus giving him abilities with limitless power.

(MORE)

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Power was a key component in Neo's life and it would soon be his downfall.

(letting Andros absorb this information)

When his moment of destiny came, Neo bravely fought the Karias, but when it was time to face the King of the Karias, he hesitated at the King's words. The King claimed that Genesis was deceiving Neo and that if he were to fulfill his destiny; Genesis would take his life as the ultimate sacrifice for peace. Realising the truth, Neo spared the King's life and caused havoc in Esordio, his thirst for power growing. His ambition has now completely dominated his thoughts. "Neo the Savior" had turned to "Neo the Destroyer".

Andros empathizes with this.

ANDROS

That's... Tragic.

GAWAIN

Neo forced Genesis to do his bidding, using his powers for destruction. Genesis could not aid Neo any longer; Neo has lost his meaning and ultimately his connection with Genesis. And so came the time when Genesis was forced to fight Neo.

(beat)

Genesis divided himself into three Spirits: Saga, the wisest, Crimson, the strongest, and Solaris, the seraphic. By dividing himself into three Spirits, Genesis weakened Neo's abilities and proceeded to cast Neo's powers inert by dividing Neo's gauntlet into three gauntlets; to covet the Three Spirits: the Luminex Caestu for Saga, the Exodiac Caestu for Crimson, and the Calvax Caestu for Solaris.

ANDROS

And I have the Exodiac Caestu. Now I know what the other two gauntlets are called and the Spirits it covets.

Gawain ignores Andros' comment. He proceeds with the story, clearly absorbed into it....

GAWAIN

In the end, Neo was completely stripped of his powers and, instead of killing Neo, the Three Spirits trapped him in the Core of Esordio as an eternal curse. To make certain that no one would ever reawaken Neo, the Three Spirits used the last of their powers to divide Esordio into various worlds and scattered their gauntlets among them, so that only those worthy will be able to wield them when the time comes. Now, the Three Spirits are in a deep slumber until a chosen Hero reawakens them.

ANDROS

That's it?

GAWAIN

What else did you expect?

ANDROS

Something more.

Finally, the duo arrive at the bottom of the staircase. Two rushlights suddenly flare to life, marking the entrance to the Ancient Ruins.

Andros and Gawain take a moment to absorb their surroundings. The ruins is truly archaic, its inhabitants being only roots and weeds that have made the walls its home. Andros scans the ground to be faced with STONE BRICKS and ANCIENT ARTIFACTS scattered across the dirt - clear signs of ancient life.

Suddenly, Andros' foot stumbles on a METALLIC OBJECT. He glances over at Gawain. Gawain continues walking. He kneels to retrieve the object, using the torch to identify it. He finds himself gazing down at a GOLDEN MEDALLION. He sidles in for a closer look. One side is blank but he turns it over --

A chilling SKULL gazes up at him. Vaguely Esordian in design. He gently places it back on the ground and returns to Gawain.

Fog SWIRLS towards Gawain and penetrates through the entrance to the ruins. A closer look at the entrance and we see one last PICTOGRAM, depicting a fight among three Heroes. Andros takes notice.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Gawain, look. What does it say?

Gawain sidles in for a closer look. He scrutinizes the pictogram...

GAWAIN

It speaks of the day when three Heroes  
will come together and fight for one  
to be crowned the...

(hesitating)

New King of Esordio.

ANDROS

What?!

Gawain brushes a portion of the pictogram to reveal something written - its almost incomprehensible but visible enough for Gawain to decipher the words...

GAWAIN

There's something written here.

(reading)

"No great man, good or mad can elude  
the destiny he's always had. There  
comes a time when he will face his  
greatest fear that he must erase.  
On the day when he must decide where  
he wants his story to reside. Whether  
in death or in life. Whether he dies  
in vain or with might. There will come  
a day that the Heroes cannot delay.  
The day when one shall live and two  
shall die. The day when the three  
shall battle to stay alive. There will  
come a day out of many when only one  
can be worthy.

(beat)

To be crowned the new King of Esordio  
and the other two to see no tomorrow.  
There will come a day when the three  
shall meet. The day when the three  
shall seek who the true Hero will be  
and fight until one is he. The three  
shall meet on the day of sorrows.

(beat)

The three shall meet on the 'Day of  
Heroes'".

ANDROS

(frightened)

The "Day of Heroes"...

Andros shakes off the thoughts and concentrates on the entrance to the ruins. His eyes BLAZE. A LINE OF FIRE outlines a SYMBOL on the door. As the fire dissipates, the door lets itself open...

Andros' eyes SHADOW. We dive into his P.O.V. as his Darkness ability navigates his conscious through the many paths the Ancient Ruins holds. And he swims back to reality, only to see Gawain running head first into the ruins, with the Mist Wolf.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Oh, right. We have the wolf. Looks like he's your best friend now...

Andros quickly runs after Gawain. He does not notice the SHADOWS that stalk him.

**INT. ANCIENT RUINS (NEAR THE SEALED CHAMBERS) - LATER**

The Mist Wolf leads Andros and Gawain deeper into the ruins. They pass by a SEALED CHAMBER, shut off from the rest of the ruins with an impenetrable gate, marked with GEOMETRIC SYMBOLS. As Gawain continues on, Andros backtracks to examine the gate.

ANDROS

What's behind here...

Andros' eyes GLOOM. He concentrates hard on the gate, attempting to force it open. No luck. Andros looks confused - it should've worked. He tries again. Andros' eyes SHADOW. The gate remains unchanged.

He slams his ear against the gate.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Why aren't you opening? What do you have to hide...

Andros knocks on the gate - a hollow echo replies. There's definitely something beyond. He steps back to ponder...

Something rushes past behind Andros at BLINDING speed. Andros freezes. His eyes bounce from left to right, trying to locate what he would least expect at the corner of his eye...

Something CLAWS at Andros from behind, but he quickly ducks and swirls around to see an ARMY OF KARIAS, both Fire and Darkness types. His eyes widen at the sight. Before he has a chance to react, the Karias lunge at him. Andros' eyes GLOOM. A powerful force brushes the Karias away, some ten to fifteen meters away - enough for Andros to make a hasty retreat.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

(calling out)  
Gawain!

**INT. ANCIENT RUINS - FARTHER IN - CONTINUOUS**

Gawain quickly follows the Mist Wolf. But Andros' scream radiates throughout the pathway. He spins around.

GAWAIN

Andros?

Gawain realises Andros is no longer beside him.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

Oh great, Andros... What did you do?!

(to Mist Wolf)

Wait here!

Gawain turns back and darts towards the source of Andros' scream. He turns the corner, only to slam into Andros.

ANDROS

(frightened)

Gawain!

GAWAIN

(annoyed)

Andros!

ANDROS

(indicating a threat)

Look!

Gawain lifts his head above Andros, enough to see the army of Karias quickly inching towards them.

GAWAIN

What do we do?!

ANDROS

Fight!

The duo immediately spring up to their feet. Andros steals Gawain's sword and dives head first into battle. After landing a few slices, he tosses the sword to Gawain. Gawain quickly catches and parries against the Karias. Andros' eyes FLARE. An array of fire is launched. But it's not enough to defeat the Karias...

GAWAIN

There's too many!

ANDROS

Gawain, I just had the most brilliant idea thusfar!

GAWAIN  
(fighting)  
Do share!

ANDROS  
Ruuuuuuuun!!!

Gawain retracts his weapon and darts off. Andros remains behind to stall. His eyes SHADOW. The Karias is blown back. Andros' eyes BLAZE. A LINE OF FIRE is drawn between him and the army.

Before the Karias can penetrate the fire, Andros hastily rushes to Gawain. The duo runs side by side...

GAWAIN  
How far behind are they?

Andros glances back. The Karias shadows them. A Karias CLAWS at Andros. Andros leaps for distance.

ANDROS  
They're very close!

Gawain growls - clearly agitated. He suddenly SWERVES around to face the Karias and pushes Andros farther away.

GAWAIN  
Go! Find Secelia! I'll fend them off!

ANDROS  
What?! Yourself? You're not going to survive!

GAWAIN  
I'm a knight, Andros! I know the risks! Now go!

Andros glances back at the path ahead. And back to Gawain. He's not willing to leave Gawain

ANDROS  
And I'm a Guardian Spirit, and I say you're not staying here yourself!

Andros' eyes FLARE. Flame SCORCHES the walls as Gawain ducks.

GAWAIN  
Are you trying to help me or kill me?!

ANDROS  
Sorry! This looked a lot better in my head!

Gawain reaches for his sword and battles his way into the army, drawing the Karias away from Andros.

GAWAIN

Go!

Andros frantically scans the area for any means of aiding Gawain. He realises the Mist Wolf is calmly awaiting an order. He kneels down beside it.

ANDROS

Your master needs help. He's fighting an army of Karais by himself. You need to help him!

MIST WOLF

Help I shall.

The Mist Wolf's eyes LUSTER. Fog sinks into the ruins as it dissolves into thin air...

ANDROS

You better be alive when I'm finished Gawain...

**INT. ANCIENT RUINS - CAVERN - LATER**

Secelia lies unconscious on the stone tablet. The Little Girl silently sits beside her, as if she's watching over her.

A FIGURE enters the cavern in the background. The Little Girl's eyes LUSTER. She senses something...

LITTLE GIRL

*He's here.*

She turns around. Her eyes meet Andros.

ANDROS

(seeing Secelia)  
Secelia!

Andros steps forward. The Little Girl rises to her feet, intimidated by Andros. Andros realises this. He kneels down where he is in an attempt to soothe her.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

(cheery)  
Hello there! I'm--

LITTLE GIRL

--I know who you are.

Andros frowns. It is now he who is intimidated. He swallows hard as he slowly paces himself towards the Little Girl.

ANDROS

You do? Then you should know I'm here to save my friend.

LITTLE GIRL

(stern)

She's not your friend.

Andros hesitates to move any farther.

ANDROS

What's your name?

LITTLE GIRL

I have no name.

ANDROS

Oh? Everyone has a name. It's impossible to not have a name.

LITTLE GIRL

You're the one who doesn't remember who you are.

Andros is stunned by the Little Girl's behavior. But he's determined to hide his judgement and proceeds...

ANDROS

Tell me, do you know who I am?

LITTLE GIRL

Yes.

Andros leans towards the Little Girl, cautious to not alarm her. She remains still as she gazes into Andros' eyes, reading them...

LITTLE GIRL (CONT'D)

You're someone who can help me.

ANDROS

(processing)

...help you?

The Little Girl's eyes GLEAM as she begins to scream. He hurries to her side.

LITTLE GIRL

(gripping onto the last of her conscious)

Help me!

The Little Girl suddenly morphs into a wolf. Meet the SHROUDED WOLF. Its eyes continue to luster as it repeatedly shakes its head, as if it were trying to morph back...

ANDROS  
(a realisation)  
You're the Shrouded Wolf! Meaning...  
the card! The card's controlling you!

The Shrouded Wolf leaps at Andros. But Andros quickly rolls away. He's too busy thinking to start fighting...

ANDROS (CONT'D)  
Think think think!!! I don't know who  
has your card so how can I save you?!

The wolf growls back. Andros shakes with fear.

ANDROS (CONT'D)  
I don't want to hurt you!

The wolf suddenly pounces on Andros and, before it has a chance to make a meal out of him, he pushes the wolf's mouth away, far enough to avoid being eaten. But he can't hold this position for long...

ANDROS (CONT'D)  
Ugh!

Andros' eyes SHADOW. The Shrouded Wolf is thrown away by a powerful force. But it quickly jumps off the wall and lands back on its feet. Andros' eyes widen as he slowly retreats towards Secelia.

ANDROS (CONT'D)  
Sorry! I didn't mean that, but you  
understand!

The wolf attacks him again but he quickly evades.

ANDROS (CONT'D)  
Okay, maybe you don't understand!

Suddenly, the Shrouded Wolf shifts into fog as it glides around Andros. The fog morphs back into the Shrouded Wolf. Except, there's five Shrouded Wolves now, and they're all surrounding Andros - a duplication process.

Andros pivots around to scan each one.

ANDROS (CONT'D)  
The Shrouded Wolf is capable of  
duplicating itself. Of course... Okay!  
Which one of you is real?!

He eyes every version of the Shrouded Wolf. Suddenly, one pounces at him and manages to rip a part of his shirt. He quickly retreats as a second wolf lunges at him, managing to bite his arm. He examines his wound - blood.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Ah! All of you are real?!

Before Andros can retreat any farther, his back slams against a wall. Now he's cornered... He frantically glances at all angles for any possible means of escape. But suddenly, all the wolves pounce towards him at once, their mouths wide open --

**INT. ANCIENT RUINS - NARROW TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS**

-- and Gawain dodges a Karias' attack. With agile might, he rushes forward to slice off the Karias' arm. He kicks it away towards the army. But that's not slowing them down. As their numbers grow, Gawain quickly turns around and runs! The army chases after him!

Gawain runs with all his might. He glances back. The army is faster.

GAWAIN

AAAH!

Suddenly, mist begins to fill the tunnel. Gawain's eyes bounce left to right, confused by the sight. He glances back again. The Mist Wolf meets his eyes.

MIST WOLF

I am here to assist you.

GAWAIN

What can you do?!

The Mist Wolf's eyes LUSTER. The Karias continues advancing, but as they make contact with the mist, ICE begins to coat them, until finally, they're all frozen.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

I'd never have been able to defeat them all...

MIST WOLF

The battle is not yet finished.

GAWAIN

Andros!

Gawain hurries off but --

MIST WOLF

No!

A frozen Karias manages to extend its arms but, before its claws can pierce Gawain, the Mist Wolf jumps in between. Reflexes take over as Gawain slices off the Karias' arm. The Mist Wolf dissolves to fog and reforms itself.

GAWAIN

You saved me again.

MIST WOLF

It is my duty.

Gawain nods. He looks off at Andros' direction.

GAWAIN

Now let's go find Andros.

#### INT. ANCIENT RUINS - CAVERN

Andros helplessly stands in the centre of a CIRCLE OF FIRE. The wolves patiently glare into the flames as they encompass the circle...

CHRONOS (O.C.)

You realise that the Shrouded Wolf *can* penetrate the fire at any given moment? It's merely playing with you.

Andros pivots around to see Chronos nonchalantly leaning against the cavern wall. It appears that the Shrouded Wolves, even with their heightened senses cannot see Chronos.

ANDROS

Are you going to stand there or are you going to help me?

The wolves' GROWL averts Andros' attention back to them. Suddenly, the flames are extinguished with a swift blast of wind. The wolves pounce!

A finger SNAPS as time comes to a halt - ANDROS TIME.

CHRONOS

Help you, of course. Well, help the Shrouded Wolf.

ANDROS

How?

CHRONOS

Your gauntlet wields many abilities.  
One of which: unlocking one's true  
power.

ANDROS

So that can break the spell, or  
whatever enchantment the Shrouded Wolf  
is under... How do I do that?

CHRONOS

I'm afraid you're going to have to  
figure that one out yourself. I am not  
a gauntlet wielder, therefore I  
wouldn't know.

Andros' eyes FLARE. The Exodiac Caestu is summoned. He forms a  
fist.

ANDROS

I'm hoping I've done it many times  
before, so maybe, just maybe, a part  
of me remembers what to do...

CHRONOS

Are you ready? I can't keep time  
suspended for much longer.

Andros takes several steps back and gazes into the eyes of each  
wolf - confident and showing not a sign of weakness.

ANDROS

I'm ready.

Chronos SNAPS his fingers as time resumes.

Andros' eyes GLOOM. The wolves are blasted away! He charges  
forth towards one of them and THRUSTS his gauntlet through. The  
wolf suddenly vanishes. He continues onto the next one. And the  
next. And the next. Until finally, there's only one left - the  
real Shrouded Wolf.

Andros' eyes BLAZE. Fire is launched towards the wolf. It  
evades as it shifts into fog. Andros swirls around in time to  
see the Shrouded Wolf reform itself. His eyes FLARE. A CIRCLE  
OF FIRE traps the wolf. The flames extend to all corners,  
absorbing air. The wolf attempts to morph into fog, but it  
fails - Andros has successfully trapped the wolf.

He peers over to Secelia.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

(rushing to her side)  
Secelia!

He gently lifts her head. Andros' eyes GLOOM. Secelia is suddenly pulled back to reality as she springs up with a deep GASP.

ANDROS (CONT'D)  
Secelia! Are you hurt?!

SECELIA  
(returning to her senses)  
No, no, I'm fine...

Secelia scans the area in confusion.

SECELIA (CONT'D)  
Where am I?

ANDROS  
You don't remember?

The Shrouded Wolf releases a BLISTERING HOWL that pierces through the air. Andros and Secelia cover their ears!

The howl stops as Secelia takes notice of the wolf.

SECELIA  
What is that?!

ANDROS  
(concerned)  
You don't remember?

SECELIA  
No...the last thing I remember was I was having dinner with you, Gawain, and the King.

Andros takes in this information...

ANDROS  
That's odd...

Andros' attention returns to the wolf. He leaves Secelia behind and approaches it.

The wolf meets the stranger's eyes.

ANDROS (CONT'D)  
I can help you! But only if you can fight back whatever's controlling you! I just need a few moments. Can you do that?!

The Shrouded Wolf WHIMPERS. Andros takes this as a sign. His eyes BURN. The flames are extinguished as the wolf arthritically approaches Andros. It collapses at Andros' feet.

Andros glances back at Secelia's confused, yet intrigued expression. He gazes down at the Shrouded Wolf and kneels down. He brushes his hand through the wolf's fur...

ANDROS (CONT'D)

You're nothing more than a scared little child... That's why you pose as a little girl, to make the people who see you feel comfortable and to ensure your innocence.

(beat)

But the Spirit Cards ruined that. Now your entire mind and actions are under the control of someone else. And he's making you harm people...

The wolf continues to whimper. It suddenly rises with a ROAR but reflexes take over as Andros slams it down to the ground. Secelia turns away - she can watch no longer.

The Shrouded Wolf struggles. Andros' eyes SHADOW. A powerful force restricts movement on the wolf - it can rarely move a muscle.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

Just a little longer... It'll be over soon, I promise. I will save you.

As Andros rises, Gawain finally arrives at the scene.

GAWAIN

Andros!

ANDROS

Gawain, go to Secelia. She doesn't remember what happened.

GAWAIN

(baffled)

What?

Gawain hurries to Secelia's side as Andros continues to gaze into the wolf's eyes.

Andros' eyes SHADOW. The wolf springs up and attacks Andros, but suddenly stops - its regaining control of its own actions.

ANDROS  
 (to the wolf)  
 Good, good, you don't want to hurt me.  
 I'm going to help you.

Andros' eyes FLARE.

ANDROS (CONT'D)  
 Shrouded Wolf... Show me your true  
 self!

Andros suddenly THRUSTS forward his gauntlet through the Shrouded Wolf! An incandescent light emits from within the wolf's body. Andros' eyes continue to BLAZE.

GAWAIN  
 Andros?! What's happening?!?!?

Gawain cannot reach through to Andros. It appears Andros is now in a deep trance along with the Shrouded Wolf.

Suddenly, an infernal of fire BLASTS Andros away. Gawain rushes to Andros' aid.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)  
 Andros!

A confused Andros slowly recovers, his eyes gaped on the wolf.

ANDROS  
 I don't understand... What happened?!

The wolf suddenly collapses. Andros pushes Gawain aside as he leaps to help the fallen wolf.

ANDROS (CONT'D)  
 (to the wolf)  
 Did it work?!

SHROUDED WOLF  
 Not quite... I am dying.

ANDROS  
 No! I promised you I would save you!  
 And I will!

The Shrouded Wolf chortles.

SHROUDED WOLF  
 My, how you have much to learn young  
 Hero.

ANDROS  
 What do you mean?

SHROUDED WOLF

You cannot save everyone.

(beat)

Only others can sacrifice themselves  
to save you.

ANDROS

But I managed to block the card that's  
controlling you!

SHROUDED WOLF

No. This is my doing...I merely used  
the power provided by you to do so. In  
truth, if you were to remain in that  
trance for any longer, your soul  
would've fallen captive to the card.

Andros sighs in disbelief.

ANDROS

No, no, that can't be! Chronos said--

SHROUDED WOLF

--Chronos isn't always right.

ANDROS

(surprised)

You know Chronos?

SHROUDED WOLF

Yes...

The Shrouded Wolf releases a low, weak growl, under its breath.  
Its body begins to slowly dissolve...

SHROUDED WOLF (CONT'D)

My time is almost over...I can finally  
have peace.

ANDROS

Do you know who did this to you?

SHROUDED WOLF

Yes. Be warned, young Hero, you should  
know that seeing means that there will  
come devastation in your life.

The wolf continues to dissolve, until finally, its  
transparent...

ANDROS

Devastation by what? By who?! Who did  
this to you?!?!?

As Andros finishes speaking, the Shrouded Wolf completely fades away...

SHROUDED WOLF

Neo...

...but it leaves behind a fulgent SHARD. It GLITTERS with IMAGES, as if it were a memory. Andros retrieves it.

Gawain and Secelia kneel down beside Andros. They have no words to soothe his pained expression...

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

## INT. KING'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAWN

King Alkrix gazes down at the Shrouded Wolf card. He tosses it away as it flares into purple flames, and ultimately dissolve to nothing.

Andros, Secelia, and Gawain suddenly burst through the Throne Room's doors and kneel down before King Alkrix. Alkrix rises from his throne and quickens his step down to Secelia.

ALKRIX

You found her!

ANDROS

We said we would bring her back safely...

ALKRIX

You saved Secelia! A debt must be repaid.

ANDROS

(delighted - but trying to be modest)  
No, honestly, you don't have to your highness.

SECELIA

Oh, absolutely! This merits something quite special.

GAWAIN

It does?

ANDROS

(conceding)  
Well...

ALKRIX

(snapping, angry)  
Yes! You will be rewarded with a job for life!

Andros looks delighted.

ALKRIX (CONT'D)

The job of a knight under Gawain's command!

Andros' face falls. So does Gawain's. Both men equally bewildered, snap back at Alkrix's decision.



ANDROS

I do.

ALKRIX

Do you swear to be charitable and to defend the poor and helpless?

ANDROS

I do.

ALKRIX

And do you swear to always follow the Code of Chivalry?

ANDROS

I swear.

Alkrix rises his sword as he gently taps each of Andros' shoulders.

ALKRIX

Rise, Sir Andros - Knight of Vestrill.

As Andros rises, the Crowd CHEERS! He faces the crowd with a smile, offering them handshakes and waves.

ALKRIX (CONT'D)

Would you like to say anything, Sir Andros?

The Crowd falls silent, giving full respect to Andros. Andros concedes. He faces the table, topped with gourmet meals - a buffet fit for a King. He turns back to the Crowd.

ANDROS

Let the feast begin!

The Crowd CHEERS yet again! Andros looks delighted with all the attention he's receiving. However, Gawain looks gutted, sulking in the background, peering up at Andros with dark, jealous eyes. A smiling Andros turns to face Gawain. His smile pales. Now both men look gutted.

Only the Crowd looks delighted now. A cheery VILLAGER approaches Andros with a big thumbs-up.

VILLAGER

Nice one, bruv.

All Andros can manage is a weak smile.

As the Crowd, including Secelia and the King, make themselves acquainted with the variety of food on the table, Andros approaches Gawain, offering him a drink.

Gawain accepts the CHALICE and is quick to drink.

ANDROS

So, I guess we'll be seeing more of each other then?

GAWAIN

Seems that way.

An awkward silence takes over. The duo fidgets and glances at every direction.

ANDROS

I just wanted to say that you were good out there - in the field.

Gawain sternly faces Andros.

GAWAIN

You're not getting soft on me, are you?

ANDROS

Never.

Andros' eyes GLOOM. Gawain is shoved away, but quickly retains his balance before he face-plants the floor. They share a laugh.

GAWAIN

Good. Cos a word further and I might have just raised my sword.

ANDROS

You dare raise a sword against a fellow knight?

GAWAIN

If I have to.

ANDROS

Well, I've been thinking, and I have a feeling we're not exactly done yet.

GAWAIN

What do you mean? We brought back Secelia.

ANDROS

Yes, but... You see, that condemned man was killed by the Karias because he was foolish enough to trust them, but trust them with what if not to kill Secelia's brother?

(MORE)

ANDROS (CONT'D)

If the Karias were after the Spirit Cards from the start, then it's possible he made a deal with them but perhaps a deal gone awry?

(beat)

And then there's Thomas. Neither the Shrouded Wolf nor the Mist Wolf could've killed him because they don't have that ability, and I know they wouldn't because I ventured into the Shrouded Wolf's mind and I could see. It did stalk Thomas but it did *not* kill him.

GAWAIN

So who could've killed him?

ANDROS

I don't know... Could it be--

GAWAIN

--No. Don't even think that. Neo is in a slumber, according to legend.

ANDROS

Of course...

GAWAIN

Maybe we'll discover more later on. After all, this is only the beginning.

Andros returns Gawain an unsettling glare.

ANDROS

(frightened, suspicious)  
What do you mean?

GAWAIN

You're a Guardian Spirit. I'm only saying that, maybe, you'll learn more along your journey.

ANDROS

Perhaps...

**EXT. THRONE ROOM/INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS**

Alkrix surreptitiously leaves the room. As he stalks out into the corridor, Chronos appears before him.

ALKRIX

If you're here to lecture, know that I have no time.

CHRONOS

I understand you're a very busy man,  
my lord, but what have you achieved by  
releasing the wolf?

ALKRIX

I'll be the one to ask you the  
questions.

(beat)

You handled your mess with Thomas?

CHRONOS

Yes, you have nothing to worry about.  
Nothing but the boy.

ALKRIX

And the boy's clothing?

CHRONOS

As you expected. Weaved with gold and  
silver.

Alkrix absorbs this...

ALKRIX

Royalty...

CHRONOS

Answer me this: If the blood stained  
on Andros' clothing was not the  
victim's, whose is it?

ALKRIX

The victim?

CHRONOS

The boy who cried wolf...

ALKRIX

That is one of the questions only  
Andros can answer.

CHRONOS

And if you may at least enlighten me  
on what the wolf was for?

ALKRIX

The wolf was a test.

Chronos raises his eyebrow. This interests him. He leans  
closer...

CHRONOS

A test?

ALKRIX

You need not to know more.

Chronos scoffs.

CHRONOS

Understood. Just remember, my Liege,  
keeping secrets will get you killed...

As Chronos vanishes, Alkrix lays his back against the wall. He thinks hard.

**INT. THRONE ROOM**

The Crowd continues to enjoy themselves as MUSIC, accompanied by trumpets, drums, and flutes fill the air.

Andros guides Gawain toward the table as he jumps on.

ANDROS

(calling for attention)  
Excuse me! Hello! Hello!!!

He receives the attention...

GAWAIN

You just like jumping on tables, don't you?

ANDROS

Only when I'm about to have a table jump on you. Again, if I may add.

Andros' comment draws a few laughter from the back of the Crowd. Gawain swallows hard as he falls silent.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

I'd like to make a toast this evening.  
(raising his chalice)  
Although I've just been knighted, most of you know that I am a Guardian Spirit. However, I must be honest...I do not remember most things about myself. I have forgotten. But I hope that, by being knighted, I will learn what it means to not only be a knight, but also a Guardian Spirit. I swear, under all my power, that I will keep you all safe and fight to my last breath! Of course, I hope my last breath isn't upon me soon.

A few members of the Crowd laughs.

ANDROS (CONT'D)

But even if it is, I am making it my duty to save as many lives as possible, and all I ask in return is for all of you to live life, to smile, and to know that you are safe and protected.

Gawain joins Andros on the table.

GAWAIN

And may many, many more adventures come your way, Sir Andros - Guardian Spirit and Knight of Vestrill!

ANDROS/GAWAIN

Cheers!

The Crowd raises their cups with a ROAR.

CROWD

Cheers!!!

The members of the Crowd smack their cups together and proceed to drink. Andros looks to Gawain to complete their toast.

GAWAIN

No.

ANDROS

(baffled)

What? So you jumped on here just to finish my speech and *not* complete the cheers with me?

GAWAIN

Yes, that sums it up.

Gawain prepares to jump off the table but Andros shoots out his hand toward Gawain's shoulder.

ANDROS

Come on Gawain, you don't have to be an arse all the time! Just once?

Gawain contemplates. He returns beside Andros.

GAWAIN

Fine.

(in Esordian)

*Calvex Demun.*

ANDROS

"Calvex Demun"?

GAWAIN

It's Esordian. It is a saying that means "Let the journey begin".

ANDROS

Oh. *Calvex Demun!*

The smiling duo tap their chalices together. A RINGING vibration RICOCHETS as all the clamour slowly fades out...

...and we see Secelia, gazing at Andros and Gawain, as if in a trance, completely oblivious. The image of the duo smiling as they tap each other's chalices lingers...

The RINGING vibration continues... Secelia's eyes BLAZE.

**INT. THRONE ROOM (FLASH FORWARD)**

Andros is suddenly BLASTED through the doors. He drops his sword and, as he makes an attempt to retrieve it, Gawain rushes in and forces Andros up.

ANDROS

I thought we were friends!

GAWAIN

We were *never* friends!

Andros' eyes FLARE. Fire SCORCHES towards Gawain. Gawain's eyes LUSTER. A swift BREEZE extinguishes the flames before it even has a chance to bite.

Andros quickly retrieves his sword as he engages in a sword fight with Gawain. Andros thrusts forward. Gawain evades. With agile might, the duo slash at each other, resulting in a deadlock.

ANDROS

I trusted you!

GAWAIN

That was what you were supposed to do!

Gawain breaks the deadlock. Andros swiftly parries. The duo result in a deadlock yet again...

ANDROS

Please, Gawain! You're better than this! You're not just my friend - you're my brother!

GAWAIN

You are a fool!

Gawain's words attack Andros as he loses his focus. Gawain thrusts his sword forward, ultimately piercing through Andros' chest. Andros' grip loosens on the sword. It falls.

As blood spills out of Andros' mouth, Gawain kneels down to meet Andros' eyes.

GAWAIN (CONT'D)

I hate you.

**INT. THRONE ROOM (BACK TO PRESENT)**

Secelia FLASHES back to her senses. She glances around, frightened. She peers around back to Andros and Gawain. Gawain smacks Andros' head as the duo share a laugh.

Everyone in the room seem to be enjoying themselves except Secelia. She can only manage a chilling gaze directed at Andros and Gawain.

SECELIA

(worried, frightened)

What is to come of you two?

**INT. KING'S PALACE - ANDROS' CHAMBER - DUSK**

Secelia opens the door leading to Andros' chamber. He looks up at her with a smile.

ANDROS

Thank you.

SECELIA

No, thank you. You saved my life.

ANDROS

Hardly saving if you can't remember.

SECELIA

I may not remember, but I feel it.

Their eyes meet...

ANDROS

Well, it's been a long day-- well, long days. I haven't gotten much rest.

SECELIA

Oh, yes, of course!

Andros takes a step forward but Secelia quickly grabs hold of his hand. He looks back at her.

SECELIA (CONT'D)  
Andros...

ANDROS  
Yes?

SECELIA  
Look after Gawain for me.

ANDROS  
(smiling)  
Of course! He's like a brother to me.

Andros' additional comment sends chills to Secelia. She turns pale with fear.

ANDROS (CONT'D)  
Secelia, are you okay?

SECELIA  
Yes. I just need rest.

ANDROS  
Good night then, my lady.

SECELIA  
Good night, Sir Andros.

They exchange a smile. Andros enters his chamber as he glances around. A CRIMSON CARPET covers the floor. VELVET DRAPES hanging at the windows. The BED fixed with GOLD AND CRIMSON SHEETS. Andros looks delighted.

ANDROS  
I think my favourite colour is red...

CHRONOS (O.C.)  
Good guess.

ANDROS  
You're everywhere, aren't you?

Chronos chuckles as he examines the artifacts in Andros' chamber - one of which, the antique sword placed on the table.

CHRONOS  
I like to give that impression, so yes.

ANDROS  
Chronos, let me ask you something...

CHRONOS  
Anything.

ANDROS

Is Neo awake?

Chronos turns back at Andros. For a millisecond, we may have noticed a slight glimpse of fear in Chronos, but he's determined to hide it.

CHRONOS

I don't know. Why do you think that?

ANDROS

Thomas and the Shrouded Wolf warned me... With just a single word as they perished: "Neo".

CHRONOS

(hinting)

Did the Shrouded Wolf leave behind something?

Andros ponders. He remembers...

ANDROS

Yes! A shard!

He searches through his pockets until finally unveiling the shard. Its luster outshines the warmly lit fire at the fireplace.

CHRONOS

I feared this would happen...

ANDROS

What?

CHRONOS

I materialised your memories, but I was not able to retrieve them. I overestimated my power, and my consequence is that your memories, now shards, are scattered on various worlds. And it seems it can also be absorbed by other beings, or people, to have an unpredictable affect.

ANDROS

Memory Shards? How did you materialise my memories?

CHRONOS

Think of memories as a mirror. It reflects upon yourself and decides your next decision and, in a way, defines who you are.

ANDROS

But its been scattered to other worlds? If I woke up in that forest, does that mean I'm not of this world?

CHRONOS

Yes, you came through to this world along with the wolf. From which world I know not, but I know that if you continue to search for answers, you will eventually find them.

ANDROS

How can I travel to other worlds?

CHRONOS

We're about to find out. Bring forth the Exodiac Caestu...

Andros' eyes FLARE. Flames wrap around Andros' arm and BURSTS out to reveal the Exodiac Caestu. The gauntlet suddenly rearranges some of its parts automatically. A confused Andros can only watch and speculate what the imminent spectacle will be...

ANDROS

What's happening?

CHRONOS

I am not a gauntlet wielder. We must wait and see...

Suddenly, a WHIRRING emits from the gauntlet as a warm, pale BLUE LIGHT shines on Andros and Chronos. Their eyes reflect their awe towards the spectacle.

ANDROS

Is that...

CHRONOS

Your path to another world.

Andros continues to gaze into the light.

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

There are many, many other worlds out there. Here, in Esordio, these worlds consist of a unique story. However, if the worlds really are converging, then when Esordio is one again, Neo will be found, and destruction will begin. However, there is a way to prevent this.

(MORE)

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

The worlds are converging because of a special connexion that binds them together. In order to find the connexion, you must--

ANDROS

--Connect the fragments.

CHRONOS

And ultimately destroy the connexion. Your quest for your memories will aid you, but only if you are willing to embark on this journey. Beyond *this* lies another world, and this only marks the beginning of your grand adventure, for only more worlds will follow. You will make friends along the way, as well as fearsome enemies who will stop at nothing to see you dead and to wield the gauntlet in your place.

(beat)

That only leaves me with one, final question. Once you've answered, there is no going back.

Andros nods, still absorbed into the light. We're still unsure what it is he's peering at --

CHRONOS (CONT'D)

Are you ready?

-- and we finally see that Andros is gazing into the heart of a SPIRALLING PORTAL.

Andros is beyond excited. He can't control his emotions - a smile escapes.

ANDROS

(in Esordian)

*Calvex Demun!*

Andros can't contain his excitement anymore. As he rushes forth, Gawain enters.

GAWAIN

Andros?

(seeing Andros)

Andros!

Andros is forced to a halt a step away from the portal. As he pivots around, Gawain suddenly trips on the rug and, to save his fall, leaps towards Andros!

Andros tilts back along with Gawain as the duo falls into the portal and we dive into a WHITE FLASH!

**INT. STARDUST ARENA**

Andros and Gawain regain conscious as the pair groans.

GAWAIN

Andros, what did you do?!

Gawain is the first to rise. His attention immediately shifts while Andros remains focused on the conversation.

ANDROS

What did I do? What did you do?!  
You're the one who pushed me through  
the--

GAWAIN

--Andros...

ANDROS

What?!

GAWAIN

Where are we?

As Andros pivots around to take in his surrounding, we see his expression pale with fear. We are yet to see what he is seeing, but we hear CHEERS from an audience from the distance. A DRUM BEAT echoes through. BOOM BOOM BOOM. BOOM BOOM BOOM.

ANDROS

I don't know...

And we finally see the duo are in a COLISEUM ARENA. Fully automated by what appears to be a form of ancient technology. Lights are synthesized by the use of LEVITATING CRYSTALS. Elevated HOLOGRAPHIC MONITORS shows the "Leaderboard" scores. This appears to be some sort of game... Welcome to STARDUST ARENA.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Challengers! Welcome to Stardust  
Arena!

An ANNOUNCER's voice echoes through, his voice amplified so everyone can hear.

GAWAIN

Stardust Arena?

Andros shrugs.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
Starting battle!

The drums falter to only a steady beat.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Five. Four.

The audience falls silent as Andros and Gawain frantically glance around.

ANDROS  
Battle?!

The Announcer continues the countdown...

ANNOUNCER  
Three. Two.

Gawain and Andros slam their backs together, ready for anything.

GAWAIN  
Ready?

ANDROS  
What was that saying again?

The Announcer finishes the countdown...

ANNOUNCER  
One.

ANDROS  
(remembering, snapping,  
excited)  
*Calvex Demun!*

Andros' eyes FLARE.

FADE OUT:

**THE END**