

"ISENTIA: AWAKENING"

by
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FADE IN:

EXT. ASCATH MOUNTAIN - AFTERNOON

North of Ariel, in the forests of the mountain, a YOUNG DRAGON stands over top of a BOY bleeding to death from multiple bite and claw wounds.

The dragon looks to the northeast where a big mountain cat walks away.

Villagers run to the young boy, the dragon hops back from the body.

They walk up to the dragon. It watches them, unafraid. The villagers KILL it with swords and spears.

EXT. ASCATH MOUNTAIN - MEADOW - EVENING

Heavy rain and THUNDER. A meadow with drenched swordsmen, archers and cavaliers. They stand over dead comrades and dragons.

Lords SATURI(38) and NECIDAL(36) stand at the back of the battlefield with the ARCH WIZARD, MADRIUS(62).

Madrius is five-foot six with greying hair. He is fairly chubby and wears a big grey robe. He holds a staff with a crystal orb held in the end by interwoven wood carvings.

Lord FALTOR(41) saunters over.

FALTOR

(concerned)

How much longer before Kuragon
appears?

Faltor glances at the drenched soldiers.

SATURI

Not much longer.

EXT. ASCATH MOUNTAIN - CAVE - EVENING

Wizards, EAGRET(45) and KILIN(33), hold a force field over top of the cave. They have short brown hair and wear brown robes.

They strain from the power exhausted into the barrier, their clothes are soaked.

EXT. ASCATH MOUNTAIN - MEADON - EVENING

An IMMENSE clash of THUNDER shatters the sky. KURAGON, king of dragons, flies out from the mountain volcano just to the northwest. He is twice the size of any other dragon.

He pauses in the air flapping his wings, then speeds towards the armies with BLOOD CURDLING CRIES.

Lord GREDIN(31), a man with golden hair, stands before an army of archers. He wears diamond plated armor.

GREDIN

(screaming)

Archers ready your bows!

Gredin pulls two ARROWS out of his quiver and notches them atop one another on his giant bow.

MADRIUS

When I raise the barrier, fire at will!

Kuragon is getting close.

Madrius's face is like stone.

Kuragon rears his head back, flying dangerously fast.

MADRIUS

(whispers under breath)

Ista barrichi tes vorde om ista
nuimo.

Kuragon CRASHES into the barrier that appears before him. He
CRIES out.

Five-hundred arrows fly towards Kuragon, many hit.

Gredin GLARES down the shafts of his arrows. He pulls his
arm back as far as he can and lets go.

The arrows connect with Kuragon's skull. He crashes into the
steaming, blood soaked mud. Kuragon is dead.

EXT. ASCATH MOUNTAIN - CAVE - EVENING

Madrius mouths words while waving his staff and free hand
towards the cave entrance. A MIRAGE starts to appear before
the cave.

Tears run down his dirtied face as the barrier is almost
completed. Dragons can be seen flying in the chasm on the
other side of it.

MADRIUS (V.O.)

All this over a child that wasn't
even killed by a dragon, and now we
condemn them to an eternity
underground.

The mirage blends into the surroundings, it is complete.
Madrius lowers his arms.

MADRIUS (V.O.)

This is not the last time that
dragons would fly over Isentia.

(MORE)

MADRIUS(cont'd)

The day will come that will see all
wrongs undone, and the trust that
man and dragon once had will be
restored.

ROLL TITLE

EXT. OCEAN OF SHARDS - AFTERNOON

Sun gleams off the Ocean of Shards. The ocean spreads as far
as the eye can see. On the horizon lay mountains and a
marble city on the coast.

EXT. ESSILLY - AFTERNOON

In the center of Essilly Bay, sunlight gleams off of a glass
building on an island. The building is connected by bridges
to the northeast and southeast of the island.

A bridge connects the building directly to the Commonwealth
in the east. The bridge is pearly-white.

ISIETH (V.O.)

It is with great honour, and
sorrow, that I take up this throne.
The passing of our parents has left
us a lot to think about and a great
grief throughout the city...

INT. GLASS BUILDING - AFTERNOON

A balcony overlooks tens of thousands of citizens. At the
edge of the balcony, ISIETH(20) looks upon them.

Isieth is beautiful, chestnut brown hair, standing five-foot
four. She wears a tiara and an emerald green gown lined with
sapphire blue.

Beside Isieth, the lords crown rests on a pedestal.

ATHOR(14), her brother, sits behind the pedestal looking at her.

Athor has golden hair with a young energetic face. He wears a sapphire blue cloak with emerald green trim. He is strong, five-foot five.

CHANCELLOR VELLIN(47) stands to Isieth's right. He is almost six-feet tall with greying brown hair. His face is wise and he wears a white robe with a blue sash.

Behind Isieth sits six council members, men in their early to mid-fifties. Their white robes are accompanied with a green sash.

Isieth glances over the crowd for a moment.

ISIETH (CONT'D)

...Let us take this summer to lift
ourselves up and continue to live
out the legacy of our departed
lord, my father.

Isieth raises her hands, palms to the citizens.

ISIETH

To the future and what it holds!
Let this city and all of this
province be blessed!

CHEERS fill the building.

Isieth lowers her hands, a smile on her face. Tears form in her eyes.

She takes two steps back, then turns to the great marble bridge behind the council members. She leaves the hall.

Athor gets up and runs after her.

The council members all stand as Vellin goes to the edge of the balcony.

EXT. MARBLE BRIDGE - AFTERNOON

Isieth stops on the bridge half way between the Commonwealth and the glass building. She looks back, Athor catches up to her.

VELLIN (O.S.)

Let this be the time when a lady
first rules our lands... the
centuries now give way to the reign
of Isieth!

She turns, he comes to a stop in front of her. Tears come out of her eyes, she hugs Athor close. They hug for a long time.

EXT. COMMONWEALTH - ISIETH'S BALCONY - NIGHT

Isieth looks at the ocean and her city beyond the glass building. She wears a silk nightgown of violet and sapphire. Her hair and gown blow gently in the breeze.

She looks down at the marble bridge, now lit by many torches at equal intervals.

DREAM:

INT. COMMONWEALTH - BEDROOM - MORNING

Isieth kneels next to a bed with a fair, middle aged woman lying beneath the blankets. Her name is ISILIA(42). She has black hair, pale skin and light blue veins visible on her face.

Isieth's face is wet with tears.

ISILIA

The time has come for you to show
your true strength. You must be
strong, for you and your brother.

Isilia closes her eyes for a moment.

ISILIA

Watch over him. He is young, and
his emotions control him often.

(pause)

You will be a lady like there has
never been...

Isilia's eyes close, her breathing slows. It gets
slower...slower...then stops. Isieth drops her head on the
bed and CRIES into the blankets.

A faint KNOCKING on wood. A second KNOCKING, this time
louder, then a third, louder again.

END DREAM

INT. COMMONWEALTH - ISIETH'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Isieth awakes with a sudden jolt. She is sweating. The
KNOCKING comes from her bedroom door.

VELLIN (O.S.)

Lady Isieth, are you awake? There
is someone here from the province
of Dreadon to see you.

She gets out of the bed.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

Vellin stands at a door. The door opens, revealing Isieth.

VELLIN

Is everything alright?

ISIETH

Yes, everything is fine. Who is here?

VELLIN

His name is Radek. He is waiting in the foyer.

ISIETH

I'll be down shortly.

Vellin bows. Isieth closes the door.

EXT. WATCHTOWER OF ISCITH - MORNING

GALIDON(24), with long black hair in common clothes, comes up from the stairwell to the top of the tower.

BERN(18), with red hair and similar clothing to Galidon, sits in a chair looking out over the water. Nothing but fog.

Galidon taps his shoulder. Bern looks up at him with his tired face.

BERN

I was wondering when you would get up. There is some gwaith left in the pot should you need a little something to jump start the morning.

Galidon walks over to a table with a wooden cup and metal pot on it. He pours a black liquid into the cup from the pot.

GALIDON

Not much to see this morning.

Bern stands up, Galidon takes his chair.

BERN

Should clear up shortly.

Bern does a long yawn, stretching his arms out.

BERN

If chance would have it that you
need anything, come wake me up.

GALIDON

Like that day will ever come. Get
a good rest. I'll get you when my
shift is up.

Bern walks down the stairwell.

Galidon looks into the fog, then down at his cup. He swirls
the black liquid in the cup with both of his hands, then
drinks it all down.

He shakes his face, now completely awake. He looks back into
the fog, it starts to recede a little.

A shadow appears in the fog. Galidon steps up to the edge of
the tower and looks into the fog.

An ENORMOUS black ship, full of black sails, drifts out of
the fog. It looks very ghostly.

Galidon stumbles back from the rail, loses his balance and
drops his cup. He crawls back to the edge of the tower, his
eyes watch the ship.

The ship drifts by steadily, a glimpse of light stares back
at him from the stern.

The fog thickens, the ship disappears.

INT. WATCHTOWER - BEDROOM - MORNING

Galidon bursts into the doorless sleeping quarters.

GALIDON

Bern, get up! I saw it, I saw the
ship! We must hurry!

Bern turns over in his bed, he blinks rapidly a few times.

BERN

What ship?

GALIDON

The ship from the riddle. Come on!

Bern gets up and follows Galidon out of the room.

INT. WATCHTOWER OF ISCITH - ENTRANCE - MORNING

Galidon and Bern walk quickly towards the main door through
the empty entrance.

BERN

Ohhhhh, that riddle.

To the right of the main doors, inscribed in the wall, is
three lines of large text.

GALIDON

(reading inscription)

When death drifts by...
A shadow in the dark...
Look to the room with an ancient
mark...

Galidon stares at the inscription.

GALIDON

(puzzled)

What do you suppose the last line
refers to?

Bern's head drops slowly to his chest, his eyes close slowly.

Galidon slaps Bern on the arm and he awakens.

BERN

An ancient mark?

(pause)

In the dining room, on the floor next to the fire place. There is an ancient symbol that the light barely reaches.

INT. WATCHTOWER OF ISCITH - DINING ROOM - MORNING

In the corner next to the fire place is a palm sized ancient symbol barely lit. It is a triangle with circles at the corners and a circle in the middle of the triangle.

Bern and Galidon walk to the corner, looking closely at the floor.

BERN

(pointing at the symbol)

There.

Galidon kneels down and presses slowly on the symbol. Metal GEARS turn behind the walls. The wall in the corner slides away.

There is a dark, circular stairwell going steeply into the darkness. Bern stares in amazement.

Galidon takes the nearest torch off of the wall and walks to the top step.

GALIDON

Let's find out where it leads.

He proceeds down the steps, Bern follows. Long shadows cast down the stairs as they disappear around the spiral.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - COMMON ROOM - MORNING

Many chairs and sofas of soft, light coloured fabrics are neatly placed throughout the room. Low coffee and desert tables are with each set of sofas and chairs.

In a chair close to the tall glass windows sits RADEK(28). He is a big man, six-feet tall, wearing cloaked armor of yellow. His hair is mid cut, messy and red. His long sword, belt and sheath lean against the side of the chair.

Vellin sits in a sofa near him, some cookies on a tray sit on the table.

Radek picks up a cookie and bites into it.

VELLIN

...and how are things to the east?
I trust the summer crops must be
nearing full capacity?

Radek finishes off the cookie.

RADEK

The crops look truly exquisite this
year. All of Dreadon is yellow
with wheat and the green of the
corn fields roll over the hills as
far as you can see.

(pause)

This is the first year that I can
honestly say that Dreadon has
earned its title of the golden
land.

Vellin picks up a cookie and looks it over.

VELLIN

The picture in my mind is more
beautiful then words can describe.

ISIETH (O.S.)

It sounds like a dream...a very
good dream.

Isieth walks into the common room and takes a seat next to
Vellin. Vellin puts the cookie in his mouth and chews.

Radek stands up and kneels, tipping his forehead down to his
knee.

RADEK

My lady. I'm Radek, captain of the
Dreadon army.

He stands. He reaches into his cloak and pulls out a sealed
letter.

RADEK

It grieves me to hear of your
parents passing, and you have my
condolences. My lord, Farix, bids
me give this message to the lord of
Ascath.

Isieth reaches forward and takes the letter from Radek's
extended hand.

ISIETH

That would be me, except I am no
lord, I am a lady, and this is my
province to rule. You may sit
master Radek.

Radek sits down in his chair. Isieth reads over the letter.

ISIETH

This letter says that the ceremony
is to be held in three days, isn't
that a little short notice?

RADEK

Yes, I am running a little late.
Too much time with the ladies you
see.

Radek grins. Isieth's face remains calm.

ISIETH

When do we leave?

RADEK

This afternoon. I would like to be
in Ariel by sun down.

ISIETH

Very well. Vellin, I shall need a
guard of four along with Commander
Darwin ready to go in a few hours.

VELLIN

Yes, my lady.

Vellin bows and leaves the room. Radek takes another cookie
and bites into it.

RADEK

(chewing)

Would it be possible to get a real
meal?

He smiles, Isieth laughs.

INT. WATCHTOWER OF ISCITH - BASEMENT - MORNING

Bern and Galidon step off of the stairs into a very small
room out of breath. The wall right before them is covered in
vines. On the wall to the left is another inscription.

Galidon holds the torch to the wall.

GALIDON

(reading inscription)

A legend lies beyond this door...
To awaken and sleep no more...
For his body to be restored...
Be sure to pull the right cord...

BERN

Great, I love riddles.

Galidon observes the vines closely, feeling over them with his hands.

GALIDON

All I see are vines.

He feels through them. The vines are all tangled.

BERN

Try the right vine.

GALIDON

What do you think I'm trying to find?

BERN

No, I mean the vine on the right.

Galidon checks the vine on the right from top to bottom. It is loosely grown among the other vines, unattached. He pulls on it. The vines disappear, the wall turns inwards.

INT. MADRIUS'S CHAMBER - MORNING

Bern and Galidon walk through the room. Lit torches are on the walls, a fireplace with a pot to the right, a chair and table covered in old books to the left.

The room is coated in dust, save the path Bern and Galidon walk to a door in the back of the room.

BERN

Who would live way down here?

GALIDON

I have an idea...

Galidon opens the door.

INT. MADRIUS'S COT ROOM - MORNING

Light fills the tiny room. Galidon and Bern step into the doorway. Madrius(562) sits on the old cot, looking very well rested.

GALIDON

(shocked)

It can't be! The tales say you died...

Galidon drops to a knee and lowers his forehead to it.

BERN

Can't be who? He seems like an old man awakened from the crypt.

Madrius stands up and puts a hand gently on Galidon's shoulder, he stands up.

MADRIUS

Neither of you are right, nor are you wrong. I have slept for five centuries, dead if you will, to be awakened at the right moment. It would seem that moment has come.

GALIDON

But why? Wouldn't you have rather died with the ones you served?

Madrius picks up a cup from a little table next to the cot and dips it in a wooden bucket of strangely fresh water.

MADRIUS

I did not serve anyone, except for our god, the Maker. It was he that gave me this power, and allowed me to see many things.

He puts down the cup and walks to the doorway. Bern steps back into the main room. Madrius grabs his staff from the corner by the door.

INT. MADRIUS'S CHAMBER - MORNING

Madrius walks quickly through the room followed by Bern and Galidon.

MADRIUS

We must hurry. Every minute brings us closer to our doom.

EXT. WATCHTOWER OF ISCITH - AFTERNOON

Madrius takes a deep breath of the outside air. On the big doors of the tower is inscribed the same riddle from the inside.

He walks to the horses in the makeshift stall just down the slope.

MADRIUS

We must ride to Essilly and warn the lord there.

Galidon and Bern exchange looks.

GALIDON

We cannot leave. Our family is bound to this tower.

Madrius picks up the reins from one of the horses and turns to the brothers.

MADRIUS

The fate of your family takes a different path now. The towers purpose has been fulfilled. I bind you to me, now, to help in the awakening of Isentia.

Madrius mounts on the horse he was holding.

MADRIUS

We will stop in Tillema to get another horse.

Galidon mounts the other horse in the stall, Bern jumps on behind him.

They ride down the slope to the ocean waters. When they hit the water to the south of the tower, the tower crumbles into rubble. Bern looks back, seeing nothing but dust where the tower was.

EXT. BLACK SHIP - AFTERNOON

KING PRENZIA(48) stands at the steering wheel of the ship. He is just over six feet tall, slim with long black hair and beard, wearing a silvery blue cloak.

The deck is bustling with activity. Mercenaries tend to the sails, others doing war drills on the open deck.

SESH(39) climbs up the stairs to Prenzia's left. He is five-foot seven with curly brown hair and a scruffy face. His robe is light brown.

He stands next to Prenzia and watches the deck activities.

SESH

Are you sure we are doing the right thing?

Prenzia gives him a quick glance, then looks back at the sea.

PRENZIA

Roderick saved my life. He wants
to make our kingdoms one.

Sesh steps forward to the rail and leans on it.

SESH

Why not unite the kingdoms and make
the people of this land apart of
it? Much blood will be lost.

PRENZIA

I would prefer to try that option,
but Roderick does not believe it to
be such a simple matter. There is
a power that he seeks here that he
does not think will be given away
so easily. Barbarians...that is
what he said awaits us.

Sesh turns back to the king.

SESH

I will be ready and willing. I do
not agree with this course of
action, but you are my king.

Sesh salutes and goes back down the stairs.

Prenzia pulls up his telescope from his belt and looks
towards the land. There is a small village in sight, two
horses bearing three riders approach it from the north shore.

EXT. TILLEMA - AFTERNOON

Boats fish in the bay, people walk the small village streets.
Madrius tends to three horses tied to a stake in the ground
outside of a small cottage near the wharf.

Bern and Galidon emerge from the cottage, each carrying a full sack over their shoulders. They look around the village, then throw their sacks over their horses.

GALIDON

Childhood memories may be all I have left of this place. War is said to bring out the best and worst in ones character, but sitting back awaiting the final outcome can twist one into things much worse.

Bern looks his brother directly in the eyes.

BERN

If war is to come, then that is where I will go. There is nothing left for us here, brother.

Madrius walks up between the brothers and puts a hand on each of their shoulders, gripping them solidly. He looks at both for a moment, then mounts on his horse.

The brothers mount after Madrius, and they ride out of Tillema along the shoreline, the volcanic mountain in the east.

EXT. ESSILLY - EAST GATE - AFTERNOON

Radek, Isieth and four palace guards ride out of Essilly with one more guard trailing.

The last guard is COMMANDER DARWIN(38). He is about the same build as Radek, wears blue cloaking, a long sword sheathed in his belt. His hair is long, brown and free flowing.

Isieth is wearing her tiara with loose pants and shirt of light blue. Her medium length, light SWORD is tied to the saddle near a black sack.

Each horse has two saddle bags.

RADEK

From Ariel, it will be another two days ride to Madria.

ISIETH

Madria? Aren't the ceremonies held in the capital?

RADEK

Lord Farix thinks that Madria would be more convenient to all lords. It saves us a days ride, which I am thankful for.

Radek gives Isieth a smile.

The group ride off at speed to the east.

EXT. ASCATH - AFTERNOON

Isieth, Radek and the guards enter a big forest at the base of the mountain.

EXT. ASCATH - EVENING

Isieth, Radek and the guards emerge from the forest and ride up a hill of grass and shrubs near the south waters of Ascath. They stop at the top.

RADEK

(pointing east)

We are almost there.

There is a river with a wooden bridge crossing into Ariel. Lights from the town are easily made out in the late evening.

EXT. ARIEL - NIGHT

Isieth, Radek and the guards ride down the quiet streets of Ariel. Candle light shines through windows all around.

One house has its door open.

A strong man watches them pass by from the shadow of his doorway, a twinkle in his eyes. He gives a slight bow with his head and closes his door, unseen.

EXT. INN - STABLES - NIGHT

Isieth, Radek and the guards ride into the stables. Two stable boys run out to get the horses from them as they dismount.

They walk to the inn, Isieth carrying her black sack.

INT. INN - LOBBY - NIGHT

DRUNKEN LAUGHTER and LOUD VOICES come from the dining hall as they approach the front counter.

The INN KEEPER is a short, chubby man with long greying hair and beard. He watches attentively from behind the counter.

Isieth sees him and quickly takes off her tiara and places it in her black sack.

INN KEEPER

Welcome back master Radek. Your
rooms are prepared as requested...

(pause)

...and this must be young Lady...

He is silenced by Radek's left index finger.

RADEK

We do not wish to draw any unwanted
attention to ourselves.

Radek lowers his hand. Isieth steps up to the counter.

ISIETH

My business is not of the court, so
I wish not to be known.

She pulls some gold coins out of her black sack and places
them on the counter.

ISIETH

A tip, in exchange for secrecy.

The inn keeper slowly grabs the coins and pulls out seven
keys from under the counter.

INN KEEPER

Your request is my promise. You
have my word, my lady.

(pointing to his right)

Please, enjoy a hot meal and some
drink.

He hands over the keys.

INT. INN - DINING HALL - NIGHT

Isieth, Radek and the guards sit at a round, well made table
near a big fire place. The fire burns hot. The hall is
fairly full with people drinking.

The table is laden with food: stew, roast, bread, fruits. A
metal goblet of wine is before each of them.

Isieth pushes her plate away, still half full.

ISIETH

I should have thought about my tiara before riding into Ariel.

RADEK

(swallowing)

I'm sure...nobody...noticed it. It was quite dark when we arrived.

Isieth watches the tendrils of fire dancing.

ISIETH

You are probably right. It will be a while before I'm adjusted. Being a lady is more than just a title.

DARWIN

There is none of us here that can claim to relate to what you have to go through.

Isieth takes one last drink.

ISIETH

There will be plenty of time to get things under control.

RADEK

Like any other lord, you are not alone to govern. You do have the council. They should prove to be very useful.

ISIETH

Yes, everything will be fine.

Isieth smiles.

ISIETH

If you'll excuse me, it is getting late. Good night.

Isieth gets up from the table.

RADEK

Sleep well.

DARWIN

Good night.

Radek, Darwin and the other four guards all bow their heads to her as she leaves.

INT. INN - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Isieth flops herself on the bed, staring at the ceiling. Moonlight streams in through the half closed curtains.

ISILIA (V.O.)

(quiet)

You will be a lady like there has never been...

Tears trickle from her eyes.

ISILIA (V.O.)

You must be strong...

Isieth smiles faintly and drifts off to sleep.

INT. INN - DINING HALL - NIGHT

Radek and Darwin sit at the table. It is now cleared. They both drink down their wine.

The rest of the hall is empty. The fire burns low. A young SERVING LADY in a sea blue dress puts some more wood on the fire, then walks to Radek and Darwin's table.

SERVING LADY

Some more wine?

Darwin looks her over.

DARWIN

One last round I think.

Radek gives a nod and the lady takes their goblets away.

DARWIN

You are young to be a captain, are you not?

Radek sits back in his chair and takes a deep breath.

RADEK

I am. Was upped to captain four months ago. Can't even call it a promotion really. We were doing a routine training exercise when a spear was wildly thrown, piercing the captain's lung. He died soon after. The one responsible was thrown in the hole for two weeks with hardly any food. I was named captain a few days later.

The serving lady returns with two full goblets of wine.

SERVING LADY

Anything else for you this evening?

DARWIN

Thank you dear, but I think that will be all for tonight.

She curtseys and walks off. They toast their goblets to one another and both take a drink.

DARWIN

Accidents are the Maker's way of keeping us aware that not all is well. Death is never an accident, even when it is by a disease.

RADEK

Disease? Is that what took her
parents?

DARWIN

Yes, both within a matter of days.
It will take some time for her to
get over the loss, but she has
proven herself stronger than most
had anticipated.

Radek takes a big drink, almost draining his goblet.

RADEK

No one is really ever dead, so long
as they are remembered. Even in
loss, one can still find a
happiness.

Darwin and Radek finish off their wine.

DARWIN

Very true. Time can heal the
biggest of sorrows.

RADEK

Having such loyal followers helps a
great deal too.

DARWIN

Loyal followers yes, but even the
loyalist can be a fool and drink
too much.

They both LAUGH. Darwin stands up a little tipsy.

DARWIN

The bed calls my friend.

RADEK

Too right. Perhaps next we speak,
it will be over some water instead.

They do a drunken walk out of the hall.

EXT. ARIEL - MORNING

Isieth and the others ride down the main road along the bay, her tiara still off. They pass by the docks where a few fishermen are getting ready for the day.

One in particular, KURIEN(33), is packing a duffel bag and wooden staff on to a small boat.

He has long black hair, with a beard and wears a long red robe. He looks up and gives a wave towards Isieth, a twinkle in his eyes.

She waves back, Radek nodding his head towards him.

ISIETH

Do you think he knows?

DARWIN

He probably just thinks we are travellers. I doubt he can discern us from that far.

Isieth watches Kurien packing his boat for a moment longer, then looks forward.

ISIETH

Probably right.

They reach the end of Ariel and take off at a gallop. A few merchants watch them go by.

EXT. ARIEL - DOCK - MORNING

Kurien unties his boat from the dock and rows southwest along the west of the bay. When he hits the outer edge of the peninsula, he raises the sail and whispers under his breath, the wind changes direction and carries him to the west.

EXT. ASCATH - MORNING

Galidon, Bern and Madrius ride at a blistering pace to the south. Essilly's walls appear on the horizon, the horses are exhausted.

EXT. ESSILLY - MORNING

They ride through the streets of Essilly to the Commonwealth.

EXT. COMMONWEALTH - MORNING

They walk up to the big, double door main entrance. Madrius KNOCKS the brass knocking ring three times. The door opens.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - LOBBY - MORNING

Vellin takes his hand off the door handle and sees the three of them. He wears a sleeping robe.

VELLIN

What can I do for you at this early hour?

MADRIUS

I am Madrius, I have...

Vellin drops to his knees and bows. Madrius hits him on the shoulder with his staff.

MADRIUS

There is no time for that, get up.
I have urgent news.

Vellin rises and bows his head again. At the top of the stairs, Athor peaks around the corner, watching closely.

VELLIN

Do come in.

He steps back. Madrius enters, followed by Galidon, then Bern.

VELLIN

Shall I call for some food and drink?

MADRIUS

That would be most kind.

Vellin leads them by the stairwell towards the west of the building.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - COMMON ROOM - MORNING

Bern is asleep on one of the sofas. Galidon struggles to stay awake, eating soup and bread. Madrius is looking out at the bay.

VELLIN

A death ship you say? What does it mean?

Madrius takes a seat in the chair closest to Bern.

MADRIUS

There is an attack coming within days. Your lord must prepare the city.

VELLIN

Lady Isieth has gone to Madria for the ceremony. She won't be back for another six days or so.

Madrius' eyes open wide, big bags beneath them.

MADRIUS

She? Now this is a surprise, but not the time for details. You are the chancellor, you must make the arrangements to defend this city.

VELLIN

How do you know this?

MADRIUS

During my dormancy, I've seen this play in my mind over and over. Even before I slept. Bern and Galidon here are the keepers of the tower where I slept. They woke me.

GALIDON

The tower is no more. We bring our fate to the hands of war.

Vellin looks at Bern.

VELLIN

(concern)

How big will the attack be?

MADRIUS

I do not know. Set up watches around the clock, patrol the shores to the south. I will ride to Madria this afternoon.

(pause)

This is a war that concerns us all.

Galidon looks at Madria.

GALIDON

There is no way you are going without me.

MADRIUS

What of Bern?

GALIDON

He's used to me not being around.
We rarely saw each other at the
tower.

FOOTSTEPS on the marble floor. Athor enters the common room.
Vellin stands and bows to him.

VELLIN

Good morning master Athor. Would
you care to join us?

Athor's eyes are fixed on Vellin.

ATHOR

There is no reason I can't act in
my sisters stead, Vellin. I am the
rightful heir to the throne.

(pause)

Whether or not you like it, I will
fight anyone that invades and do my
family proud.

Vellin sits down.

VELLIN

This is not the time to discuss
this. Have a seat.

ATHOR

There is nothing to discuss. I
should issue the commands!

Athor storms out of the room. Feet RUNNING up stairs come
from towards the lobby.

MADRIUS

He should mind his manners before
his seniors.

VELLIN

(sighs)

His actions are excusable given the past few weeks. He is young, but his heart is in the right place.

(pause)

You two should get some sleep.

Vellin gets up.

VELLIN

Follow me.

Madrius and Galidon follow Vellin out of the Common Room to the south entrance.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - UPSTAIRS FAMILY ROOM - AFTERNOON

Athor holds a CEREMONIAL SWORD. He unsheathes it and swings it around, each movement flowing smoothly into the next. He dances around the furniture.

Light, reflecting off of the Glass Building in the bay, flickers in as he moves by the windows.

Vellin appears in the open doorway. He KNOCKS twice on the wall. Athor stops and turns to him.

VELLIN

May I have a word with you Athor?

Athor sheathes the sword and places it on the table in the middle of the room. He motions for Vellin to sit with him.

ATHOR

I'm sorry about earlier. It was very rude of me.

VELLIN

Emotions can be the hardest things to control.

(MORE)

VELLIN(cont'd)

You have to understand that there was nothing you could do for your parents.

ATHOR

I could have at least been there in their dying moments. I was scared, I hid myself away in my room, even when they called for me I would not go. I didn't want to accept what was to come.

VELLIN

I can understand that feeling. It was similar for me when my parents passed away. Just promise me you'll stay away from the battle.

Athor picks up the sword and stands again. He looks at the masterfully crafted detail of dragons and mountains in the handle.

ATHOR

I can't make that promise, Vellin.

VELLIN

(hurt)

Why must you be so stubborn?

ATHOR

I will not stand back for anything, not while I have the strength to defend this city.

VELLIN

What about your sister?

ATHOR

What of her? She is gone. I will not have Isieth return to a destroyed city.

Athor unsheathes the sword again and swings it around.

VELLIN

She would want to know you are
safe.

ATHOR

I will not feel helpless again, and
this is my decision to make.
Nothing you say will change that.

Athor walks to the window, throwing the sheath where he was
sitting. Waves crash on the shore of the bay, the high sun
gleaming off of the Glass Building.

Vellin goes over to Athor and stands next to him. He looks
at the bridge, and the family emblem on the banners hanging
from it: a ruby lodged between blue, with a mountain in the
back.

VELLIN

You may be young, but your will is
strong, Athor. If you are to go to
battle, then I will give my
blessing and pray for your well
being.

He looks down at Athor. Athor gives him a hug and buries his
head in Vellin's chest. He starts to cry.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - GUEST QUARTERS - AFTERNOON

Vellin opens the door, walks through the room to the window
and opens the curtains. Light floods in, waking Galidon and
Madrius.

VELLIN

It is time for you to go.

Vellin leaves the room.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - LOBBY - AFTERNOON

Madrius and Galidon finish putting on their riding gear.
Athor runs down the stairs, already set to go outside.

He stops before Madrius.

ATHOR

I had hoped to make up for my
behavior earlier by seeing you off.
That is if you'll accept an escort
to the wall?

Madrius ruffles Athor's hair with his left hand, the staff is
in his right.

MADRIUS

Your company to the outer wall
would be welcomed young lord.

Athor smiles.

ATHOR

Then allow me to fetch the horses.

He opens the door and runs outside.

EXT. COMMONWEALTH - AFTERNOON

Madrius and Galidon come out of the front entrance, Vellin
giving one last wave, then closing the door.

Athor walks to them with three horses behind him. He mounts
on one and then Galidon and Madrius each select a horse.

They ride east down the road, away from the Commonwealth.

EXT. ESSILLY - EAST GATE - AFTERNOON

Athor, Galidon and Madrius ride out from under the exterior wall of Essilly, coming to a halt just outside the city.

ATHOR

Isieth already has a day and a half on you. I pray for your swift return.

MADRIUS

I have slept long enough Athor. I will not sleep again until this city is defended.

Galidon looks at Madrius. A huge grin comes across his face.

GALIDON

You look like you could sleep for another five centuries.

Madrius points the staff right in his face, not two inches from his forehead.

MADRIUS

You don't want to live much longer, do you?

Athor extends his hand towards Madrius.

ATHOR

I fear we have more to worry within our own lands. Until we meet again.

Madrius turns to Athor and shakes his hand.

MADRIUS

Until we meet again.

Galidon and Madrius take off at a gallop to the east.

Athor puts his right fist against his heart and lowers his chin into his chest.

EXT. BLACK SHIP - EVENING

King Prenzia looks over the bow of the ship, Sesh at the steering wheel.

The ship slows to a halt, the waters are dead calm. Prenzia looks at the water, it starts to glow, reaching towards him. Faint WHISPERS, fog builds quickly around the ship.

SESH
(yelling)
We aren't moving sir!

Prenzia runs down the deck and comes up the stairs to Sesh. He looks around, the fog totally consumes the boat. WHISPERS still in the wind.

PRENZIA
I don't like it. Get below decks
and get this ship moving. There
are foul words in the air.

SESH
What words are spoken?

PRENZIA
Just get it moving!

Sesh runs to the center of the ship, down a set of stairs mid deck. A minute later, fifty oars on either side of the ship are in the water, propelling it to the south.

The WHISPERS get louder, no words discernible. Prenzia covers his ears, his face in anguish. He runs down the stairs, into his quarters below the steering wheel.

EXT. ASCATH - EVENING

The guards feed the horses and give them water. Isieth tends to a fire while Madrius and Radek set up tents.

They are camped along the southern shores of the province.

DARWIN

Why are we stopping already? There is still a few hours until the last rays of sun are gone.

Radek pounds a tent peg into the ground.

RADEK

Any longer, and we would be very close to the Bakshi Forest. I don't dare spend a night close to those woods.

Radek gets up and walks off into the dark throwing the mallet to the base of one of the tents. Darwin picks it up and continues to pound wooden pegs into the ground until he is satisfied the tent is secure.

Isieth comes over from the fire.

ISIETH

What did he say?

DARWIN

The Bakshi Forest is near. He didn't want to get too close to it in the dark of night.

ISIETH

Did he give reason?

DARWIN

No. He was dead set against it
though, not without the light of
day.

Isieth and Darwin return to the fire. The four guards are
sitting around it now.

EXT. ASCATH - SHORELINE - NIGHT

The crescent moon shines its faint light on the ocean. Radek
walks down the beach, kicking sand. He stops and sits
himself down, hard. He looks at the moon.

Radek kneels.

RADEK

(praying)

Oh great Maker, let my father still
live and one day be returned to me.
The months have been long since
last we met. Please...

Radek stays there, looking at the moon, tears run from his
eyes.

RADEK

...be alive.

EXT. BAKSHI FOREST - MORNING

A RUSTLE in the bushes. It is a camouflaged scout of Jedure.
He looks out from the shrubs to the grasslands just to the
south.

Going by at speed, twenty feet away from him, is Isieth's
group. The scout pulls a vine along the ground.

A moment later, another camouflaged scout arrives. The first scout WHISPERS into his ear, then he runs to the north along an unseen path.

The first scout remains watching as Isieth's group disappears to the east.

EXT. CASACCHIA - MORNING

Isieth rides up along Radek, the Bakshi Forest twenty feet to the north. Dark shadows everywhere. The shadows seem to watch the riders.

RADEK

These woods are nothing but haunted memories! No one has heard anything or dares to go near Jedure!

Isieth shoots a quick glance at the woods.

ISIETH

If I remember correctly, they didn't fight in the war with the dragons!

RADEK

Yes, they say they had no quarrel or reason! They thought it ridiculous to go to war over a child!

ISIETH

My father has always said they want nothing to do with the rest of Isentia!

RADEK

It seems that way, doesn't it?!

They ride even faster, the forest but a blur.

INT. SPARRING GROUNDS - EVENING

LORD FARIX and ENRICK are sword fighting. They both wear white clothes.

Farix(37) is five-foot nine. His brown hair is short cut, his face clean shaven.

Enrick(35) is five-foot eleven. He has mid-cut black hair and a beard.

Farix presses on the attack, Enrick back peddling to counter sword strikes. Enrick cleverly turns to the offensive, Farix gives a hearty LAUGH.

FARIX

This is a switch.

ENRICK

I've been practicing.

Farix tries hard to turn the duel around, but Enrick keeps him on the defensive.

FARIX

Mind if I spruce up our play with some conversation?

ENRICK

Please, go right ahead.

Enrick takes a stab towards his thigh, Farix dodging in time.

FARIX

I've stumbled upon some interesting scriptures in the library.

ENRICK

Go on.

Another jab, Farix barely dodging.

FARIX

Apparently Lord Gredin, before the
Arch Wizard, Madrius,
disappeared...

Yet another quick attack barely dodged by Farix.

FARIX

...had crafted some weapons with
Madrius' powers. They were then
hidden away.

ENRICK

Any hints as to their location?

Enrick disarms Farix. Farix gives up, putting both his hands
in the air, standing still, sweating. He has a big smile.

FARIX

It was nowhere in the text.

Farix takes deep BREATHS.

FARIX

Now that, good friend, is a duel to
remember. I must congratulate you.

He steps forward and embraces Enrick.

CHATTER rises from outside. The two step back from each
other. Farix picks up his sword.

ENRICK

What could that noise be about?

EXT. MADRIA - EVENING

Farix and Enrick push their way to the front of a small
crowd. More people are gathering.

Just down the road at the edge of the city comes Radek, leading the group from Essilly. Farix steps into their path, Radek brings the group to a stop.

RADEK

My lord, Farix, allow me to present to you the lord and lady of Ascath, Isieth.

Isieth rides up beside Radek, her tiara is on. The crowd all bow, then Farix bows in turn. He walks up to Isieth and kisses the back of her hand.

FARIX

Welcome to the province of Dreadon, Lady Isieth. Where's...
(pause)
I trust you had a decent trip?

ISIETH

For riding in the company of one such as Radek, and being on this horse for near three days, yes. The trip was quite enjoyable.

Radek snarls at Isieth playfully.

FARIX

Well, I won't go so far as to say he is the most boring gentleman in the land, but he has his charm. Wouldn't you agree, Radek?

RADEK

Of course, my lord.

Radek gives a small bow to Farix.

RADEK

Will you be joining us to the palace, or shall we go ahead?

FARIX

Go on ahead Radek, I will be at the palace shortly.

Farix steps aside to let them pass. He bows again to Isieth as she goes by. He turns to Enrick.

FARIX

You are still coming tomorrow?

ENRICK

I wouldn't miss it, my lord.

Enrick bows and goes back through the crowd.

INT. PALACE - TEA ROOM - NIGHT

Four chairs are nicely spaced out around a low round table. Three are filled with lords. Lord Farix, LORD TERUTH(28) and LORD GALEN(42).

Teruth is six feet tall, wearing dark green garments. His crown is golden with an emerald in the center. His hair is short, dirty blonde.

Galen is five-foot eleven with silver specked garments. His crown is gold with small diamonds evenly spaced around it. His hair is black, starting to gray.

On the table are four cups and a big tea pot with intricate paintings on it.

GALEN

So Lord Narain and Lady Isilia are dead?

TERUTH

They must be if their daughter is here wearing the tiara of Ascath.

Farix pours tea into three of the cups, each lord takes one.

FARIX

Yet she seemed quite happy. She must be taking their passing very well.

TERUTH

That is fortunate.

GALEN

Where is she?

FARIX

She should be here...

Isieth enters the room wearing a sapphire blue gown and her tiara.

FARIX

...this very moment.

The three lords stand up and bow to Isieth. She bows back.

ISIETH

Good evening. Sorry I took so long.

She sits down with the other lords. Farix pours her a cup of tea. She takes it into her lap. A strange SILENCE. She takes a sip of tea and shifts in her seat.

GALEN

This is a rare thing.

Isieth looks at him.

ISIETH

What is?

GALEN

To have a province ruled by a woman.

(MORE)

GALEN(cont'd)

Never has such a thing ever happened. We were expecting Lord Narain.

Isieth looks down at her tea cup.

FARIX

Galen, that was unnecessary.

ISIETH

It's alright. I'm sure you are all wondering what happened to him... and my mother. They were both taken by a rare sickness, my mother most recently, two weeks ago.

GALEN

Why has word not been sent of this?

Isieth looks him in the eyes.

ISIETH

You will excuse my failure to notify, as well as my parents, for they were too ill to speak many words.

Isieth drinks down the rest of her tea and puts the cup down hard on the table.

ISIETH

If you think me inadequate then speak up.

SILENCE. Galen puts his cup down gently on the table.

GALEN

It was wrong of me to ask. This is no fault of yours. I offer my apologies.

Teruth leans forward in his seat.

TERUTH

You are as welcome here as any of us, Isieth. Ascath is yours, as each of us commands our province. I am Teruth, lord of Casacchia. Farix you've already met and Galen is lord of Faramine to the south.

FARIX

Tomorrow marks the five-hundredth year since the only war that this land has ever known. I think it might be a sign, Isieth, that you are the first lady to govern in these lands.

Farix pours tea in all of the cups again. The lords all take their cup and raise them in the air.

FARIX

To another five-hundred years of peace.

EXT. BAKSHI FOREST - NIGHT

The camouflaged scout sees Madrius and Galidon as shadows beneath the moon ride by twenty feet away from him. He pulls the vine.

Another scout comes up and LISTENS, then runs north through the dark forest.

EXT. PALACE - BALCONY - AFTERNOON

A balcony overlooks a huge courtyard in Madria. The courtyard is filled with peasants and soldiers.

People hang out their windows, sit on roofs, there is lots of CHATTER. Standing at the front is Enrick with Radek, Darwin and TIENOR(22).

Tienor is an exact replica of Teruth except for his pure blonde hair and lack of a crown.

A huge CHEER. Farix comes out on the balcony followed by Galen, then Teruth and Isieth. They all stand on the balcony waving to the crowd. Finally Farix holds his hands high and the crowd goes silent.

Isieth looks over the crowd, her eyes fall on Tienor where they stay for a time. Tienor looks back at her, her eyes quickly shift to the crowd again.

FARIX

Five-hundred years ago, many brave souls were lost to a cause that brought all of the provinces closer than ever before. Since that day, we have all maintained close relations and shared in the wealth of the land. Today, we honour those that died and risked their lives to bring us this long lived peace.

At the far back of the courtyard is a disturbance as two people push through.

FARIX

It is the wish of us all that we should see another five-hundred years of peace and we may never have to send our men to war again.

Farix watches as the movement in the crowd gets closer. It is Galidon and Madrius.

FARIX

So today, ladies and gentlemen, let us take a moment of silence to pray for the ancestors that have made safe our future.

SILENCE.

Galidon and Madrius push through another crowd of people. They are almost at the front.

MADRIUS

Step aside!

Farix glares at them, four Madria guards move in and grab Madrius and Galidon, pushing them to the front.

FARIX

What is the meaning of this disturbance?

Madrius shakes himself loose from the guards.

MADRIUS

I come for Lady Isieth.

FARIX

On what grounds?

MADRIUS

Her city... It is in great peril.

Isieth looks at Madrius intently.

ISIETH

What sort of peril?

MADRIUS

An attack from the sea, how big I don't know.

ISIETH

How can you be so sure?

MADRIUS

I am Madrius, and I have seen it.

The whole courtyard goes into commotion. Madrius lifts his staff over his head.

MADRIUS
(thunderously)
Silence!

The crowd goes calm.

MADRIUS
The time of peace is at an end,
lords. I must make council with
you.

FARIX
What about the ceremony?

MADRIUS
This is no time for ceremonies.

INT. PALACE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Madrius paces back and forth as the lords take their seats on sofas and chairs. Enrick, Radek, Darwin and Tienor come in and sit where there is room.

MADRIUS
Isentia's armies must be prepared.
A union has formed between the
lands of Calidez and Lowen.
Together, they will come on like a
tidal wave on sand. The first
attack is coming to Essilly in a
matter of days.

Madrius looks at Isieth, his face is stricken with grief.

MADRIUS
So young, yet so much strength to
be had. Isieth, your people need
you now.

Isieth's head rests in her hands. Her head starts to shake, she clenches her fists.

ISIETH
Darwin, get the other guards ready,
we must go.

She gets up ready to storm out of the room. Farix grabs her arm, stopping her.

FARIX
You are not returning alone.

Farix, Galen and Teruth all stand up.

TERUTH
We will have our orders given, then
we ride.

The lords exchange looks.

EXT. PALACE - BALCONY - AFTERNOON

VOICES come from inside. Isieth stands at the balcony railing, looking into the now empty courtyard. Tienor steps up to the railing next to her. She looks at him.

ISIETH
I saw you earlier in the courtyard.
Who are you?

TIENOR
My name is Tienor, brother of
Teruth. I am also his captain.

ISIETH
That must be a great trust you and
your brother share.

TIENOR

Especially at my age. I've been told I'm the youngest captain there has ever been.

He looks into her eyes and smiles.

ISIETH

Are you riding back to Kashan then?

TIENOR

I am. Although Kashan is not likely to be a focus of attack being inland, I am to keep a watch on the lands to the north and give word to the council.

Darwin steps onto the balcony.

DARWIN

Lady Isieth, we must go now.

Darwin goes back in.

TIENOR

I wish you the best, Lady Isieth. Until we meet again.

He bows low and kisses the back of her hand.

ISIETH

Until then.

She walks inside glancing back at him.

EXT. MADRIA - EVENING

Eleven horses ride out of Madria to the west. Isieth is first, her tiara is off. Then comes Darwin, Madrius, Galidon, Farix, Teruth, Galen and the four guards from Essilly.

EXT. ROCKS OF SHINALL - MORNING

The black ship enters into the center of a fleet of twenty ships. Each ship is loaded with hundreds of mercenaries. The ship captains watch the black ship. The mercenaries are lined up in an orderly fashion.

EXT. BLACK SHIP - MORNING

Sesh runs up to the steering wheel where Prenzia is standing. He hands him a gold and dark green horn. Prenzia lifts it up to his lips and gives a long hard BLOW.

EXT. ROCKS OF SHINALL - MORNING

All of the ships burst into activity, the sails rise and the ships start to move north. Each captain BLOWS on a horn similar to Prenzia's.

EXT. BAKSHI FOREST - MORNING

The scout watches as Isieth rides by. A few moments later Darwin, Madrius, Galidon, Farix, Teruth, Galen and the four guards go by.

He pulls on the vine. No messenger comes. He gets up and runs to the north.

EXT. OCEAN OF SHARDS - AFTERNOON

Kurien sees the Maker's Domain in the distance. Three pillars shoot into the sky, surrounding a fourth, all connected by smooth rocky paths.

To the south comes the black ship leading the Lowen fleet. Kurien WHISPERS under his breath and the wind picks up.

EXT. MAKER'S DOMAIN - AFTERNOON

Kurien lands at an old CREAKING dock. Two black cloaked, gray skinned figures wait on the rocky path. They give a bow to Kurien and motion for him to follow them. He picks up his bag and staff, then follows.

They go to the left pillar, then a few seconds later emerge on one of the central paths to the center pillar.

INT. MAKER'S DOMAIN - CENTER PILLAR - AFTERNOON

The two figures stand back as another, taller and bigger black cloaked figure steps forth from the shadows. This is the KEEPER.

KEEPER

Welcome Kurien, descendent of Kilin, to the Maker's home. Three trials will test your abilities of mind and body. Failure to complete one, or if you should quit part way through, will end your tests. Only the trials up until the last will count.

Kurien acknowledges with a nod.

KEEPER

Your first trial is behind you.
Proceed when ready.

The Keeper points straight behind Kurien. Kurien bows, turns around and walks out of the center pillar, dropping his bag before he is out of the pillar.

INT. MAKER'S DOMAIN - PILLAR OF COURAGE - EVENING

Kurien enters. There is a portal with a guardian standing before it. The COURAGE GUARDIAN is dressed the same as the other keepers.

COURAGE GUARDIAN

The first trial is to test your
courage where the minds of lesser
beings would falter.

The guardian steps aside.

COURAGE GUARDIAN

Enter the portal when ready.

Kurien steps into the portal.

EXT. CAVE OF COURAGE - EVENING

Kurien appears in a clearing, his staff in his right hand. Directly in front of him is a cave, leading through a mountain, with CRIES of creatures coming from within.

INT. CAVE OF COURAGE - TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

Kurien enters the cave and GAGS on his first breath. He doubles over, plugging his nose with his left fingers and throws up. Moist, warm air blows up from the depths.

He gains his composure and walks on, the floor SQUISHING with each step. The walls are covered in algae. He covers his nose and mouth with his left hand.

He walks a long ways in, starting to get noxious. HOWLS and CRIES bring him back to his senses. Shadows stretch towards him, dancing, reaching for him.

INT. CAVE OF COURAGE - CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Kurien enters the fiery cave. He is hit by a wave of hot air, his clothes soak through with sweat and moisture.

Fire bats spit BALLS OF FIRE, long eel like creatures extend out of the lava pits and dive back below throwing up heaps of magma. An old, tattered wooden bridge stretches across the big open pit.

Kurien takes a few shaky steps onto the bridge. The bridge rocks, his hands clench both rope railings. A MOLTEN ROCK shoots by his face, knocking him off balance. He falls over the side, holding on with one hand.

A lava eel jumps up and nearly takes his foot off. He swings himself back onto the bridge. A swarm of fire bats fly at him, spitting fire balls. Kurien dodges them, but they IGNITE the bridge behind him.

He moves faster down the bridge. It sways back and forth with his movement. A lava eel jumps over the bridge just in front of him, nearly taking off his head. He ducks, his left foot falls through a ROTTEN BOARD.

He scrambles back to his feet and finally reaches the other side. Another tunnel. A rock next to it unravels, revealing a ROCK and MAGMA CAT standing three feet high. Magma DRIPS from its body.

The cat takes a jump at Kurien's upper body. He ducks under it, drops of magma barely missing him. It skids to a stop behind him, leaving red claw marks in the ground.

Kurien picks up a fair sized rock and runs at the cat. The cat lunges at him again, he jumps to the side, throwing the rock at its head. He misses.

Kurien stands on the edge of the ground, the bridge behind him still burning. The cat comes at him again.

Kurien dodges it nimbly and the cat slides onto the bridge, and burns through it. It disappears.

INT. CAVE OF COURAGE - TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

The next portion of tunnel is filled with one-foot bats hanging from the ceiling and dead carcasses on the ground. Kurien runs through, left hand over his mouth.

EXT. FIELD OF COURAGE - CONTINUOUS

Kurien emerges into a field taking deep breathes of the fresh air, a rock statue in the middle. He walks up to it, the rocks start to move. It is a STONE GOLEM about twice his size. Nearby is a waterfall leading into a river.

GOLEM

Courage comes from the heart and mind. You will fight me with your mind, not your power.

EXT. ASCATH - NIGHT

The lords race onward, the Bakshi Forest disappearing in the faint moonlight behind. Isieth continues to lead, pushing her horse to unseen speed.

EXT. FIELD OF COURAGE - NIGHT

Kurien dodges a fury of attacks from the Golem. His eyes jump from left to right. He dodges another blow and looks up.

There is LOOSE ROCKS on the cliff above the waterfall. Kurien continues to dodge the Golem's flying rock fists, leading it towards the cliff.

With his back against the cliff, he dodges a blow from the Golem, the rock fist crashes into the cliff. Nothing.

Again the fist comes towards his upper body, Kurien dodging. Some loose rocks roll down.

The third time, Kurien jumps aside, landing hard on his side. The rock arm hits the cliff hard and some big rocks come crashing down in a small slide.

The rocks knock the Golem off balance, and it stumbles backwards into the river. The water erodes the Golem into sand particles that wash down the river.

Kurien turns to the center of the field. A portal is now there, the magma cat standing in front of it.

It approaches him slowly, swaying its head. Grass burns wherever it steps. Kurien looks at his hands. They surge with new power.

The cat lunges at him.

He points his staff at a boulder below the cliff and whips it with energy at the cat. The cat flies back.

Kurien points the staff at the cat, holding it back. It breaks free to its left and jumps at Kurien again.

Kurien swings around and whips another boulder into the cat, just inches away from his body, knocking it into the stream.

The water steams, the cat destroyed.

INT. MAKER'S DOMAIN - PILLAR OF COURAGE - NIGHT

Kurien appears in front of the guardian. The guardian points to its left.

COURAGE GUARDIAN

You may proceed.

EXT. OCEAN OF SHARDS - MORNING

The fleet of ships reach the southern tip of Ascath, travelling north along the shoreline.

EXT. ARIEL - MORNING

Isieth rides straight through Ariel.

EXT. ASCATH - MORNING

Darwin, Madrius, Galidon, Farix, Teruth, Galen and the four guards from Essilly are just coming upon Ariel.

EXT. ARIEL - MORNING

They ride through Ariel.

There is mass confusion from the citizens. They watch in amazement and shock as the riders go by.

INT. MAKER'S DOMAIN - PILLAR OF FAITH - AFTERNOON

Kurien walks in to the Pillar of Faith and stands in front of the FAITH GUARDIAN. The portal is behind the guardian.

FAITH GUARDIAN

The trial of faith will test the
faith you have in yourself.

The guardian steps aside, Kurien enters the portal.

INT. MAZE OF FAITH - AFTERNOON

Kurien appears in the middle of a tunnel maze. Four tunnels branch off from where he stands: left, right, forward and behind.

Kurien takes the tunnel to his left and takes more lefts, twisting on up and down slopes, walking on the side, the ceiling, every way possible.

The cylindrical walls are gravity.

INT. MAZE OF FAITH - LATER

Kurien appears back in his original spot. He takes the tunnel to his right.

INT. MAZE OF FAITH - LATER

Kurien is back in his original spot again. There is no sound, no wind.

He CRIES out, it ECHOES down the tunnels.

EXT. OCEAN OF SHARDS - AFTERNOON

The buildings of Essilly gain size on the horizon as the ships of Lowen near. Bells RING from Essilly.

EXT. BLACK SHIP - AFTERNOON

Prenzia looks through his telescope at Essilly. He lowers it from his eye and pushes it back to its compressed size. He puts it in his belt.

Sesh comes up the stairs and stands next to him.

PRENZIA

They have seen us. Ready the men,
we will attack through the bay.

He gives Sesh a hard pat on the shoulder, then pulls up his
horn and BLOWS it.

EXT. ESSILLY - OUTER WALL - AFTERNOON

Archer's line the wall tops.

Four bell towers mark what would make a square around the
circled wall. The bells RINGING.

EXT. ESSILLY - BEACH - AFTERNOON

Soldiers swarm to the shore of the bay, hiding behind
barricades, lining up in formations. Archers line up behind
the formations.

EXT. ASCATH - AFTERNOON

Just to the east of Essilly, near the forest, are tens of
thousands of Essilly citizens camped.

EXT. ESSILLY - AFTERNOON

Shutters are closing on some of the houses. Citizens run
into their housing complexes. A few shutters have citizens
peering out towards the bay.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - UPSTAIRS FAMILY ROOM - AFTERNOON

Athor, Vellin and Bern watch the soldiers setting up on the
beach.

VELLIN

We are as prepared as we'll ever
be.

ATHOR

How can you be so certain? We have
no idea what we are up against. We
don't know how many...

FOOTSTEPS in the hall get closer. The three of them turn to
see a MESSENGER run in. It is a younger boy, about sixteen,
wearing a soldiers uniform.

MESSENGER

Sir Vellin, twenty ships
approaching. Their size...
(pause)
...hundreds aboard each, more.

VELLIN

We have over seven thousand
soldiers in this city. What chance
could they have?

Vellin turns back to the bay.

The first ship comes around the wall into the mouth of the
bay. No archers fire.

The ship is huge. More ships enter the bay, they head for
the southern shore.

Vellin spins around and grabs the shoulder of the messenger.

VELLIN

Ride around to the north of the
city. Get everyone to move to the
south. Whatever way they can, the
beach, the streets, anything!

He lets go of the messenger. The young boy sprints out of
the room.

Athor turns Vellin to him, they make eye contact.

ATHOR

Every man is needed. I have to fight.

VELLIN

I can't let you.

ATHOR

We are trained to fight for a reason! What other time to fight then now when Essilly needs my sword!?

Bern watches them, pain in his eyes.

VELLIN

I'm going to the wall.

Vellin lowers his head and briskly walks out of the room.

Athor waits for Vellin to be out of sight, then turns to Bern.

ATHOR

You came south for a reason Bern. Will you help me to defend the people of this land?

BERN

I've no skill with a weapon. Galidon and I never had any training.

(pause)

I did come here to help though, so I will try my best.

Athor puts his left hand on Bern's shoulder, shaking him gently.

ATHOR

It will be good to fight next to a friend. I will do what I can to make this easy for you.

Athor takes a final look out of the window. The twentieth ship has entered the bay.

Athor walks out of the room followed by Bern.

EXT. ESSILLY - BAY - AFTERNOON

The ships line up and hit the shore at the same time.

EXT. ESSILLY - BEACH - CONTINUOUS

The fronts of the ships open up like giant doors. Over two-hundred mercenaries per ship storm out onto the beach.

Arrows fly down from the wall and the archers on the beach like a rain storm. Hundreds of mercenaries fall.

A quick battle on the west of the beach has the mercenaries storming through.

EXT. ESSILLY - SOUTH STREETS - CONTINUOUS

The mercenaries crash on the hoards of Essilly soldiers.

EXT. ESSILLY - BEACH - CONTINUOUS

The beach is saturated with blood, hundreds of bodies are chopped up, dead on the beach.

Along the eastern beach, battle has come to a stand still. Soldiers running down from the northern shores holding them off.

EXT. SOUTH STREETS - CONTINUOUS

The streets are clogged with soldiers and mercenaries.
Swords swinging, arrows still flying from the wall.

EXT. ESSILLY - OUTER WALL - CONTINUOUS

Vellin stands on the wall near the southeast bell tower. He
looks over the streets, the mercenaries fight for ground.

Fighting continues on the beach, no longer its natural
colour.

Arrows continue to shower down on the mercenaries.

Vellin looks at the ships. There is a lot of movement on the
decks.

EXT. ESSILLY - LOWEN SHIPS - CONTINUOUS

On the ships, mercenaries load catapult arms with flaming
balls of hay.

EXT. ESSILLY - OUTER WALL - CONTINUOUS

Vellin watches the movement on the ships slow.

Twenty FLAMING BALLS OF HAY come crashing into buildings in
the south of Essilly.

The buildings ignite, portions of flaming hay spray
everywhere. Vellin grabs the nearest person to him.

VELLIN

You, get a bunch of soldiers
together and put out those fires.
Hurry!

He sends the man off, almost pushing him down the stairs.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - LOBBY - AFTERNOON

Athor helps Bern put on armor and then gives him a sword. He puts on his own armor. Finally he picks up the ceremonial sword and hooks it on his belt.

ATHOR

Just stay with me. I won't let
harm come to you. All you have to
do is watch my back.

Bern gives a nervous smile. He tightens his belt even more.

EXT. ESSILLY - OUTER WALL - AFTERNOON

On the ships, more mercenaries can be seen loading burning hay.

Another volley of burning hay strikes southern Essilly. Vellin waves over the next closest soldier.

VELLIN

Take some soldiers into the streets
and get these fires out. Take as
many as you need.

He gives the man a light nudge as he turns and runs down the other side of stairs.

EXT. ESSILLY - SOUTH STREETS - CONTINUOUS

The streets are crammed with soldiers and mercenaries engaged in combat. Arrows and spears fly through the air in both directions.

A ball of burning hay rolls down a street taking out a group of Essilly soldiers. Some die instantly, many catch on fire, burning to death.

EXT. BLACK SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Standing on the deck, Prenzia looks on with satisfaction to the battles taking place.

PRENZIA

Sesh, come here!

Sesh runs to him from the catapult.

SESH

What bid thee?

PRENZIA

Get me my horn. It is time to
unleash the second wave.

Sesh goes below deck and reappears with the gold and dark green horn.

Prenzia holds it up to his lips.

EXT. ESSILLY - OUTER WALL - CONTINUOUS

Vellin continues to watch the battles. A horn BLOWS.

Vellin looks at the ships on the beach. No more flaming hay. Out of each ship comes another hundred soldiers, two-thousand in total.

VELLIN

(to himself)

Maker, save us...

EXT. ASCATH - EVENING

Smoke billows up from the northwest. An orange glow below it.

Isieth forces her horse to go faster.

EXT. ESSILLY (ATHOR AND BERN) - EVENING

Athor and Bern make their way through the streets, heading southwest.

ATHOR

The archers are the biggest threat to the mercenaries. We must get to the south wall and help hold them off.

Athor stops and looks through the streets. He spots an alley behind a row of housing.

ATHOR

This way.

They sneak into the alleyway. At the other end a big battle takes place.

Athor unsheathes his sword and runs full tilt to the battle. Bern is slow to respond and struggles to keep up to Athor's speed.

Bern clumsily unsheathes his sword.

EXT. ESSILLY - SOUTH WALL - CONTINUOUS

Nowhere to run, the mercenaries greatly outnumber the soldiers.

Athor is right in the middle of the Essilly soldiers hacking at the mercenaries. The soldiers fight harder.

Bern takes a deep breath and joins in the fighting.

EXT. SOUTH WALL (BERN) - CONTINUOUS

Bern blocks attacks clumsily, dodging most of them. He hardly gets any attacks off.

EXT. SOUTH WALL (ATHOR) - CONTINUOUS

Athor fights like a whirlwind, his sword dancing off of blocks, turning into attacks.

Soldiers surround him, fending off his sides.

EXT. ASCATH - EVENING

Isieth passes through the camps to the east of Essilly. Citizens watch her race by with worried looks.

Mothers hold their young, many of which are CRYING.

Isieth pulls out her tiara as she rides and places it on her head.

The citizens look at her with hope.

She races towards the east gate. Many fires still burn in the city.

EXT. ESSILLY - EAST GATE - EVENING

Isieth rides through the gate. She pulls to a sudden halt. She falls over with the horse.

Her leg is almost crushed by the weight. She scrambles to her feet. She looks around, CRIES come from the south.

She bends down and pets the neck of her horse and kisses it.

ISIETH

Rest as long as you need. You have travelled long and hard.

She runs south along the wall.

EXT. ESSILLY - OUTER WALL - CONTINUOUS

Isieth runs up a flight of stone stairs to the wall. Vellin is a little ways down it.

She runs to him.

ISIETH

Vellin! What is happening?

She runs up and stops next to him.

VELLIN

My lady, it is good to see you return! We are barely holding them back. The south end is weakening. They will soon reach the wall.

Isieth looks over the streets in the south. Very few Essilly soldiers remain before the wall.

One small group in particular holds their ground.

Isieth looks back at Vellin.

ISIETH

Where is Athor?

VELLIN

I do not know. He would not let me
deter him from fighting.

EXT. ASCATH - EVENING

Darwin, Madrius, Galidon, Farix, Teruth, Galen and the four
guards from Essilly pass through the camps east of Essilly.

EXT. SOUTH STREETS - NIGHT

Athor, Bern and the few soldiers that remain are being pushed
back again. The mercenaries receive reinforcements.

They are right back against the wall, archers still firing
with precision.

BERN

We must retreat. We cannot defeat
them!

Athor keeps swinging, his movements smooth, uncontrolled.

BERN

Athor! Come on!

ATHOR

No! You go if you want! I will
not yield!

EXT. SOUTH WALL (BERN) - CONTINUOUS

Bern keeps fighting. He stays to the left of Athor, holding
off the attacks.

He keeps blocking. A few hard blows connect with his sword,
and he loses it.

He backs off, a soldier taking his place at Athor's side.

BERN

I can't stay any longer! Come on!

Bern heads for the closest set of stairs.

EXT. SOUTH WALL (ATHOR) - CONTINUOUS

Athor is getting tired, his arms strain to hold his sword.

EXT. ESSILLY - OUTER WALL - CONTINUOUS

Isieth looks at the small battle at the south wall. One man runs up a flight of stairs.

ISIETH

Who is that?

Vellin looks at the man on the stairs.

VELLIN

That looks like... Oh no.

ISIETH

What? Who is it?

VELLIN

That is Bern, from the watchtower up north. He was with Athor when I left the Commonwealth.

Isieth continues to watch the small battle, one particular man fights for dear life.

EXT. ESSILLY - EAST GATE - NIGHT

The remaining lords ride through the east gate and on down the streets.

EXT. ESSILLY - OUTER WALL - NIGHT

Vellin watches Athor in horror.

EXT. SOUTH WALL (ATHOR) - CONTINUOUS

Athor is bombarded by attacks, he has nowhere to move.

His sword is being tossed around, he barely blocks, his arms are getting cut up bad.

He gets IMPALED in the stomach, his sword drops, he falls to his knees.

Another sword PIERCES his heart. He CRIES out. His cries die off, he falls over, dead.

EXT. ESSILLY - OUTER WALL - CONTINUOUS

Vellin and Isieth watch Athor fall.

VELLIN

No!

Isieth's face quickly goes pale.

She runs down the closest flight of stairs.

EXT. SOUTH WALL (ISIETH) - CONTINUOUS

Isieth flies into the mercenaries. Her sword is furious, her attacks reckless.

She blocks an attack to her side, spins around and decapitates the mercenary.

Two more mercenaries come upon her. She ducks under one blade, blocks the other, then cleaves the first mercenary under the rib cage.

Her counter swing nearly chops the other mercenary in half.

EXT. SOUTH STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Darwin, Galen, Farix, Teruth and the four guards jump off their horses and engage a group of mercenaries just north of Isieth.

EXT. ESSILLY - OUTER WALL - CONTINUOUS

Galidon and Madrius come up the wall to Vellin. Bern is already there.

The four of them watch Isieth fight at the base of the wall.

EXT. SOUTH WALL - CONTINUOUS

Farix, Galen and Teruth fight through mercenaries near Isieth, converging with her.

Unaware, Isieth CRIES out and nearly takes off Farix's head.

FARIX

Isieth, hold!

She glares at him, her eyes wet, tears run down her face.

She lowers her sword, blood drips from it.

ISIETH

(faint)

Athor...

She walks back to Athor's body and drops to her knees. She sees the ceremonial sword and picks it up. She places it in Athor's right hand and tucks it up on his chest.

Tears keep falling, she breathes deep, doesn't cry.

Farix, Galen and Teruth sheath their swords. They watch her from a distance behind.

EXT. ESSILLY - BEACH - NIGHT

The ships pull away from the beach.

EXT. ESSILLY - BAY - NIGHT

The ships leave the bay.

EXT. ESSILLY - NIGHT

The fires are out.

Soldiers haul other, injured, soldiers to the Commonwealth.

Dead bodies are being piled up in the streets, then loaded on wooden carts.

EXT. SOUTH WALL - NIGHT

Isieth is still with Athor.

Finally she stands up and looks back at the other lords.

ISIETH

Will you help me carry him?

Isieth goes to Athor's left shoulder, Farix takes Athor's right shoulder, Galen his left leg and Teruth his right leg.

They lift him and walk towards the Commonwealth.

EXT. ESSILLY - OUTER WALL - CONTINUOUS

Vellin turns away from the sight at the wall. He looks at bodies being piled up, then walks down the stairs.

INT. MAZE OF FAITH - NIGHT

Kurien sits where he began the maze. He shrugs his shoulders, stands up and begins to walk backwards.

He continues walking backwards, the slopes of the tunnel take him in various directions.

INT. MAZE OF FAITH - LATER

Kurien is upside down, walking backwards. He starts to straighten back to standing upright.

He backs right into a door. He spins around and notices the door handle. He turns and walks through the door.

INT. MAKER'S DOMAIN - PILLAR OF FAITH - MORNING

Kurien is back in the Pillar of Faith in front of the guardian. The guardian bows to him.

FAITH GUARDIAN

There is but one test that remains
for you.

Kurien bows to the guardian and leaves the tower to his right.

INT. MAKER'S DOMAIN - PILLAR OF CHOICE - MORNING

The CHOICE GUARDIAN waves Kurien towards him. Kurien stops next to the guardian.

CHOICE GUARDIAN

There is a choice in all of us that we wish never to make or have wished to have made a different decision in the past. That which is toughest is what the Maker has for you.

The guardian steps aside. Kurien walks into the portal.

INT. BARN OF CHOICE - MORNING

Kurien appears inside of a burning barn. Flames all around. In the corner farthest from him is an older man and woman cuddled. They have nowhere to go.

In the corner closest to him is a young girl and boy. They are about ten years old.

Kurien spins around, tears in his eyes.

KURIEN

No...

The tears trickle down his cheeks. He stares at the old couple in the far corner. He mouths the words MOM and DAD.

EXT. COMMONWEALTH GRAVEYARD - MORNING

Located to the north of the Commonwealth is the graveyard. It is littered with freshly lain red flower petals.

All of the lords, Isieth, Bern, Galidon, Madrius and Darwin stand around the coffin. Tears fall from Isieth's eyes.

To the right are ten soldiers holding their spears straight up from the ground in salute.

At the head of the coffin is Vellin. Behind him is a pit already dug up with a headstone bearing Athor's name.

Off to the left is a choir of young teenage girls from the city in white gowns. They HYMN a haunting tune of sorrow.

VELLIN

It is with great sadness that we stand here today. Young Athor fought valiantly with the soldiers of this city to ensure its safety.

Tears come to Vellin's eyes. He wipes them away with the back of his hand.

VELLIN

Athor, your courage sang a song through your sword. May the dreams in death lead you to a greater knowledge of life and peace. Your place is now with your parents.

Everyone around the coffin back off from it. The HYMN continues.

The ten soldiers surround the coffin and grab onto it. They carry it to the pit and lower it in.

The wind picks up a little. The red petals over the graveyard start to fly, dancing in the wind.

Everyone starts walking back to the Commonwealth except Isieth. She watches as the soldiers start refilling the grave with dirt.

Vellin turns around and comes back to her.

Isieth turns her head and looks at him approach. She turns full to him and hugs him.

Vellin hugs her back, looking at the grave stone. They both have tears streaming down their faces.

VELLIN

I'm so sorry. I tried my best to keep him from the battle but he wanted so badly to fight. He was like a son to me, and you like a daughter. I have failed him.

ISIETH

No, we both have.

Vellin continues to hold her close.

INT. BARN OF CHOICE - MORNING

Kurien is torn between who to save. He looks at the children, then back at his parents. He looks at the children again.

KURIEN

No...

He turns to his parents and starts to walk.

KURIEN

... I won't lose you again.

INT. MAKER'S DOMAIN - PILLAR OF CHOICE - MORNING

Kurien is back in front of the guardian.

CHOICE GUARDIAN

You have failed the test of choice.

Kurien's face is dirtied with dry tears. He turns around and walks out.

INT. MAKER'S DOMAIN - CENTER PILLAR - MORNING

Kurien walks to the center. Out of the darkness comes the Keeper, hands at his sides.

KEEPER

You went back on a choice you made long ago. That choice you made those years ago was the correct one to make, but it tore you in two. It is what separates you from what makes a wizard an arch wizard.

The Keeper raises his right hand over his head for a few seconds, then lowers it back to his side.

Two of the black cloaked figures come out of the darkness. One holds an onyx staff with a bright red ruby at the top.

The other holds a pile of red and black clothing.

KEEPER

Despite your failure, it is the wish of the Maker, that you shall be adorned in the apparel of a wizard bred for war.

The two figures step forward and hand the items to Kurien. They recede back into the darkness.

KEEPER

There is one more item that the Maker wishes you to have.

The Keeper reaches inside his cloak and pulls out a ring in the shape of a DRAGON viewed from the side. The mouth appears to be biting on the tail.

KEEPER

This is a special gift, the last gift to any wizard... To the last wizard.

Kurien puts the clothing under his right arm and holds the onyx staff in his right hand.

He extends his left hand to the Keeper. The Keeper places the dragon ring on his left index finger.

EXT. CASACCHIA - MORNING

A SCOUT of Casacchia watches the seas to the north. The plains stretch far behind him, his horse grazing in the grass nearby.

Whitecaps crest the waves, the wind blowing moderately. On the horizon, what appears to be a thin, long black cloud slowly gets closer.

The scout waits.

The black line separates from the horizon, a flock of flying beasts... Dragons.

EXT. STAGRIN SEA - MORNING

A thousand large dragons bear riders upon their backs. They fly over a fleet of one-hundred ships.

EXT. CASACCHIA - MORNING

The scout whistles for his horse. The horse trots over. He mounts up and rides south.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - ISIETH'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Isieth stands facing the wall behind her bed. There is a dresser with candles around the outside forming a rectangle. They all burn. Above the dresser is a mirror.

She is holding a clay dish with flower petals on it. She takes a hand full and sprinkles the petals inside the rectangle of candles. She repeats until the dish is empty.

Leaning against the side of the dresser is the ceremonial sword Athor fought with.

Isieth picks it up and unsheathes it. She places the sheath on the flower petals towards the back part of the rectangle.

She places the sword in both hands and lays it gently on the petals. Candle light reflects off the cleaned blade.

Isieth looks at herself in the mirror.

ISIETH

May you find peace by our parents
side, Athor.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - COMMON ROOM - AFTERNOON

Vellin, Farix, Galen, Teruth and Madrius are seated in the common room.

MADRIUS

We need a course of action. That
was but the first attack.

VELLIN

A first attack that left our army
in ruins. We stood over seven-
thousand strong and now we are down
to a few thousand, if that.

MADRIUS

Regardless, the most logical point for them to attack now would be near Madria.

Madrius stands up and walks around the room.

MADRIUS

There must be one point of focus to defend this land. I'm sure that Lowen and Calidez have selected a meeting ground for their armies. I suspect near Madria is where we will find that point.

Farix stands up, Madrius stops walking.

FARIX

What army is there of this city to send east? You take any of the soldiers away and you leave this city defenseless.

VELLIN

We are already defenseless if we face an attack of that scale again.

Madrius signals for Farix to sit, Farix does.

A door OPENS and BANGS shut. FOOTSTEPS get louder.

MADRIUS

There won't be another attack here. It was a weakening blow.

Kurien walks into the room wearing his new black clothes with red robe and onyx staff. Everyone looks at him disbelieving.

KURIEN

He is right. This city is safe, for now.

Madrius walks towards him and embraces him.

MADRIUS

I had no idea there was any wizard
blood left on Isentia.

Kurien pats him on the back.

KURIEN

There won't be any more, master
Madrius. Our bloodline is to end
with me.

Madrius and Kurien part and stand next to each other.

KURIEN

My name is Kurien, descendant of
Kilin from the dragon war.

The three lords and Vellin stand and bow to Kurien.

MADRIUS

Come, make council with us.

Madrius and Kurien take a seat.

INT. KASHAN PALACE - WAR ROOM - EVENING

Tienor watches the city of Kashan from the northeast tower of
the palace that overlooks the water passage separating the
city in two.

Soldiers patrol the streets outside in pairs. Tienor turns
to seven councillors that overlook a massive table covered in
maps. They sift through them.

TIENOR

Any luck?

COUNCILLOR ONE

No sir. All we have are maps of Isentia. The latest one we can find has the Rocks of Shinall, but that's it.

Tienor comes over to the table and looks at the map the councillor indicates.

The door opens, the scout from the plains enters.

SCOUT

Captain Tienor, sir, I think we have trouble. I saw what looked like hundreds of giant birds and a bunch of ships approaching. They will hit land by morning.

Tienor takes a pen and sketches a rough line on the map north of Isentia. He puts the map down and turns to the councillors.

TIENOR

I will ride out with half of the army. The other half are to be placed just north of the city. I will send word back if things get out of hand.

COUNCILLORS

(in unison)

Yes sir.

Tienor walks up to the scout and puts a hand on his shoulder.

TIENOR

You will come with me. We ride in the morning.

They both leave the room.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - COMMON ROOM - EVENING

The three lords, Vellin, Madrius and Kurien still sit in the common room. Empty plates from a prior meal sit on the low tables.

FARIX

Madrius, I've been wanting to ask you if there is any truth to the weapons you helped craft.

MADRIUS

There is. All the lords are here, which makes sense for this to be your time to wield them. It is just a journey for lords, no one else.

Teruth stands up.

TERUTH

With every ones permission, I would like to inform Lady Isieth.

He gets a round of nods.

VELLIN

I will show you to her room.

Kurien looks down at the ring he was given. It appears to be slowly spinning on his finger.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - HALLWAY - EVENING

Vellin walks up to Isieth's bedroom door. Teruth is right behind him.

TERUTH

Thank you.

Vellin bows and walks away.

Teruth KNOCKS lightly on the door. Nothing. He KNOCKS again. Nothing. He checks the door, it isn't locked. He opens the door.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - ISIETH'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Isieth is asleep on the floor below the dresser. The candles are down to their last flame.

Teruth walks in and looks at the sword on the flower petals. He bends down, picks up Isieth and walks her to the bed.

He lays her gently on the bed. Isieth wakes up and looks at Teruth.

TERUTH

I'm sorry for the intrusion my lady. I was hoping to have a word with you, but you were asleep on the floor.

ISIETH

How long was I asleep?

TERUTH

I only just came in.

She observes him a moment.

ISIETH

So what is it that you want to talk about?

Teruth sits on the bed, Isieth sits up next to him.

TERUTH

My brother and I also lost our parents when we were young.

ISIETH

I'm sorry for your loss.

TERUTH

No loss is as great as what you have suffered. My brother is still with me, so I can't imagine how that must feel. What you have is a city of people that love you and every lord here will do what it takes to help.

Isieth gets up and walks out to the balcony, Teruth follows.

EXT. COMMONWEALTH - ISIETH'S BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

Isieth looks at the southern section of the city. Teruth stands next to her.

ISIETH

I wish this was just a bad dream, but the smell of death, the sight of the destruction... So much pain to be shared by so many people.

TERUTH

More will suffer the same if we do not act. Madrius is certain the next attack will be near Madria. He leaves in the morning with half of your remaining army.

Isieth turns away from the south and looks at him.

ISIETH

What of us lords?

TERUTH

We have a quest to perform. More of a test, if you will.

ISIETH

And when do we leave?

TERUTH

In the morning as well. Madrius will give us directions before he parts.

Isieth heads back inside.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - ISIETH'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Isieth goes to the dresser and blows out the candles. Teruth goes back to sitting on the bed.

TERUTH

I understand if you don't want to go...

ISIETH

I'll be there.

Isieth stands in front of Teruth, he stands up. Isieth hugs him.

ISIETH

The strength inside me weakens, Teruth. I don't know how much more I can take.

TERUTH

There is nothing you need to face alone.

Isieth lets go of him.

TERUTH

I will see you in the morning.

Teruth leaves the room. Isieth watches him go.

EXT. COMMONWEALTH - MORNING

Madrius, Bern, Galidon and Kurien wait outside.

Vellin comes out.

VELLIN

She still hasn't come down.

MADRIUS

A little while longer, then we must ride. Is the army ready?

VELLIN

Darwin is waiting by the east gate.

INT. COMMONWEALTH - COMMON ROOM - MORNING

Teruth, Galen and Farix are sitting.

GALEN

We don't have much time. Let's get the instructions now before Madrius leaves.

TERUTH

Vellin went out to get them if she isn't down in time.

GALEN

Then we continue to wait.

FARIX

What's your hurry, Galen?

GALEN

I'm just anxious that's all. Those weapons, just the thought of them has me feeling like a child again.

Isieth quietly walks into the room. She wears the same clothing from the ride to Madria.

ISIETH

Are we going?

EXT. ESSILLY - EAST GATE - MORNING

The four lords, Galidon, Bern, Madrius and Kurien ride out of the east gate and stop. Waiting there already is Darwin and a little under one thousand soldiers.

Madrius turns his horse to face the lords.

MADRIUS

From here, go east until you hit the river. Then follow it north to the waterfall. The weapons are in a hideaway right above it. You must find a way up the cliff to get to the only entrance on the west side of the river. Once you are there, behind the falls in the hideaway is an especially smooth stone. It is your key into the cave. The light must be right, otherwise you will have to wait.

The lords exchange looks.

FARIX

We should be back in Madria in three or four days.

MADRIUS

The time for Isentia to unite is near. All the luck to you my lords.

The lords take off east. The army with Bern, Galidon, Madrius and Kurien ride southeast.

EXT. CASACCHIA - MORNING

Tienor leads an army, four-thousand strong, northwest of Kashan. The army rides fast.

EXT. CASACCHIA - NORTH SHORE - MORNING

One-hundred Calidez ships hit land. One-thousand dragon riders soar in the air. The ships empty into an army of over twenty-thousand.

The decks open up on the ships and another five-hundred dragon riders fly into the air.

Out of one ship only one dragon comes up. It is the biggest of the dragons. On its back in a finely crafted seat is KING RODERICK(47).

Roderick is a bulky man, six-foot five, grizzly black hair. He wears plated armor and a heavy metal crown with three blue gems in the front.

Roderick flies his dragon across the army.

RODERICK

All soldiers form up!

The soldiers below arrange in twenty by twenty squares. All archers in the back, swordsmen in the middle, spearmen at the front.

The dragons line up in five rows of three-hundred behind Roderick.

RODERICK

March!

In the east, Mount Fedimus casts a shadow over the plains. Dragons CRY out, soldiers do a war CHANT.

EXT. ASCATH - FOREST - AFTERNOON

The lords ride through the forest on the mountain side. The land starts to level off.

EXT. ASCATH - RIVER - LATER

It is mid-afternoon. The lords ride up to the river. It flows at full capacity, a soothing SOUND to the flow of the water.

The lords dismount and walk their horses to the river side. The horses drink and graze in the grass.

The lords wash off their faces with the river water.

Isieth looks to the north, following the path of the river. She sees a fabulous waterfall surrounded by a rock facing and a gigantic tree top that spreads out from within the rock.

ISIETH

That must be the hideaway.

The other lords look north.

TERUTH

It is beautiful.

GALEN

A hidden jewel in the heart of the mountain. So much of Isentia still remains a mystery.

ISIETH

Even my father never knew about this and he knew this land better than any one.

FARIX

His heart wasn't for the mountain.

Isieth sits back beneath a nearby tree, Galen and Farix follow her and sit as well.

ISIETH

You knew my father well?

FARIX

Enough to know he cared not for the orderly transgression of lord talk. He often went into discussions of life, its beauty and most of all, you and Athor.

GALEN

He was a great lord, but a better father. In a way he was like a father to all of us.

Teruth smiles from over by the river and gets up. He walks to them beneath the tree and sits.

TERUTH

There is one thing that Narain said that I will never forget. He said that in life one can't find happiness, but that happiness comes from within ones own capacity to live life.

GALEN

I remember him telling me the same thing before I got married. It was because of his words that I now have a wife.

FARIX

For once we have something in common, Galen.

GALEN

Let us hope it is the only thing.

Everyone LAUGHS.

EXT. ASCATH - RIVER - LATER

The lords ride up the river side. The forest starts to get denser, old growth, roots and vines block the path. The SOUND of the waterfall ever closer.

EXT. ASCATH - RIVER - LATER

Galen pulls his horse to a halt.

GALEN

Time to continue by foot. Tie your horses up here.

They continue through the dense forest next to the river, hacking a path with their swords.

Galen, in the lead, cuts through a severely thick patch of thorn bushes and appears before the waterfall. The other three lords come up behind him.

Galen's mouth is wide open. The lords stand below a waterfall that drops vertically over two-hundred feet.

GALEN

Now that's an eye opener.

The lords admire the waterfall a moment longer.

Isieth starts walking west along the base of the cliff.

ISIETH

There should be a way up the rock farther west.

EXT. ASCATH - CLIFF - AFTERNOON

Isieth leads the lords along the cliff base until the slope gradually gets less. The rocks act like a stairway. Isieth looks up as high as she can.

ISIETH

This should do it.

Teruth looks up.

TERUTH

I never thought I would have a fear of heights, but now that I look up, my heart starts to sink. Worst thing is, we haven't even started to climb.

Farix starts climbing the rocks. He stops ten feet up and looks down.

FARIX

Teruth, you go next, then Isieth and then Galen. Don't look down, it will just make things worse.

They all climb with ease on the rocky cliff.

EXT. ASCATH - CLIFF - LATER

They are now about half way up the cliff. The cliff isn't as steep anymore, but way less rocks to grab a hold of. Farix is a good twenty feet higher than the rest.

FARIX

(serious)

Watch yourself coming up to this section. One wrong step, and you will take a nasty spill.

TERUTH

(sarcastically)

Why thank you, good lord Farix.
You have just made me feel so much
better.

FARIX

(joking)

Oh, did I forget to mention, don't
look down.

TERUTH

Once again, your insight is most
welcomed.

Isieth stops climbing, holding back laughter.

ISIETH

Stop, please stop. I'm going to
lose my grip if I start laughing.

Teruth and Isieth make their way up to the second half of the
cliff.

Galen finds holds for his hands. He starts to bring up his
left foot. The rock under his right foot gives away.

His left foot finds a spot, too late. The pull of his body
from his right leg pulls his left off of its rock.

His left hand loses its hold. He dangles by his right finger
tips.

GALEN

Help!

Isieth starts going back down slowly.

ISIETH

I'm coming, hold on.

TERUTH

Be careful. The slightest mistake
and you'll both fall.

Isieth gets right down next to Galen.

ISIETH

Give me your left hand and I'll
help you find a hold for it.

She leans her right hand down and pulls up on Galen's
extended left hand. They find a sturdy hold.

Galen soon finds foot holds.

ISIETH

You okay?

GALEN

Yeah, thanks.

They continue to climb.

EXT. ASCATH - CLIFF - LATER

The lords stand at the top of the cliff in a forest as dense
as the one below. They follow the cliff to the east.

FARIX

We're almost there.

Farix leads them through what is left of the forest and they
come out by a rock facing with an opening just to the north.

EXT. CASACCHIA - AFTERNOON

It is late afternoon. The two armies are a few hundred feet
apart. The Kashan army riding fast on their horses, the
Calidez army going at a marching pace.

EXT. CASACCHIA (CALIDEZ ARMY) - AFTERNOON

Roderick sees the Kashan army coming close. He grins.

RODERICK

Hold your ground! Archers, fire!

The Calidez army stops in its ranks, Roderick leads the dragons on.

EXT. CASACCHIA (KASHAN ARMY) - CONTINUOUS

Tienor pushes his army on. Thousands of arrows come flying towards the Kashan army taking out hundreds.

EXT. CASACCHIA - CONTINUOUS

The two armies collide. The dragons fly down from the sky, taking out hundreds of soldiers in a few swoops.

The dragons circle back and spit FIRE, scorching the plains and many of the Kashan soldiers in the rear. Dozens of dragons fall from arrows.

EXT. CASACCHIA (TIENOR) - CONTINUOUS

Tienor fights from his horse, the scout staying nearby. Tienor's sword hacks away on both sides taking off many heads and severing many limbs.

He takes a quick glance at the darkened sky.

TIENOR

Take them down!

He looks back down in time to block an attack. He cuts the spear in half and stabs the assailant through the throat.

EXT. CASACCHIA - CONTINUOUS

A few hundred arrows fly at the dragons to no good. Only ten more dragons fall, the others barely wounded.

EXT. ASCATH MOUNTAIN - HIDEAWAY - EVENING

A waterfall fifty feet high falls into the hideaway. A huge tree in the middle comes up from the water, its canopy shades everything over the top of the rock sides.

The lords walk in, the grass around the edge turns to layers of shale closer to the pool of water.

Isieth looks around.

ISIETH

This place is beautiful.

GALEN

I can only imagine what it would be like in the afternoon sun.

Teruth walks around the shale to the waterfall. Spray splashes everywhere.

TERUTH

Watch your step on the shale, it is quite slippery.

Farix steps ahead of Teruth and goes under the waterfall. There is a five foot deep cave eroded into the rock cliff.

FARIX

Stay back. There isn't much light in here.

Farix searches the floor of the small cave. He gets down on his hands and knees, feels the ground with his hands.

The sun creeps into the gap in the rock wall. The light streams right in behind the waterfall. One rock glimmers in the light.

Teruth walks in to the cave.

TERUTH

I think I found it.

He kneels down and presses the rock into the ground. It gives easily. The back of the cave slides into the rock.

The lords all watch, torches ignite. A long tunnel is revealed.

GALEN

You going to lead again Farix?

Galen walks in next to Farix.

FARIX

What's the matter, Galen? Scared?

Isieth and Teruth walk by them and start into the tunnel.

GALEN

It's just that you seem to lead so well.

FARIX

Then I think I will lead.

Farix turns to face the tunnel.

ISIETH

Come on you two!

Isieth and Teruth are already twenty feet in. Farix and Galen run in.

INT. HIDEAWAY TUNNEL - EVENING

Farix and Galen catch up to Isieth and Teruth.

FARIX

Thanks for waiting.

TERUTH

We thought you two might be a while.

GALEN

If he would have just started walking we wouldn't have fallen behind.

ISIETH

(sarcastically)

Sure.

FARIX

Let's just see where this goes.

Farix skips ahead of Isieth to take the lead.

INT. HIDEAWAY TUNNEL - LATER

The path keeps going straight. It gets HOTTER, the walls start to glow.

ISIETH

We are heading into the layers beneath the volcano.

TERUTH

So soon?

ISIETH

They are said to lead throughout the mountain, even this far south.

They continue on. The tunnel just gets hotter, the lords sweat more.

INT. HIDEAWAY CAVERN - EVENING

The lords appear in a cavern with solid molten walls and pits of LAVA.

A GHOSTLY image of Madrius from the dragon war appears before them, they stop.

GHOST MADRIUS

To claim the weapons that are
concealed within this cave, you
must first survive the trial at
hand.

The ghost disappears. GROWLS come from deeper in the cavern. The molten walls SHIFT about on top of the lava. The pits of lava harden over, then SPIT the hardened rock back up.

GALEN

This looks fun.

TERUTH

Madrius never mentioned anything
about this.

FARIX

Maybe one of us could have been
smart enough to ask what the task
would be.

Isieth walks into the maze.

ISIETH

There is no turning back now. Come
on.

EXT. CASACCHIA - EVENING

The riders of Kashan fight furiously in the hordes of Calidez infantry. The field is covered in blood and bodies.

EXT. CASACCHIA (KASHAN ARMY) - CONTINUOUS

The dragons continue to ravage the rear ranks of the army.

EXT. CASACCHIA (TIENOR) - CONTINUOUS

Tienor turns his sword into a dance atop his horse. He spills lakes of blood with each slash of his blade.

A Calidez soldier jumps at him, spear held high.

Tienor blocks and takes off the back of the soldiers head on the counter swing.

Tienor brings the sword back over in a smooth motion, stabbing another soldier between the eyes.

EXT. CASACCHIA - CONTINUOUS

The Kashan army is divided. Only a few hundred remain. The Calidez ranks surround them making quick work of small groups.

The dragons soar above the battle. No arrows fly towards them.

EXT. CASACCHIA (TIENOR) - CONTINUOUS

Tienor continues to decimate Calidez soldiers. The scout is still behind him fighting very little.

Tienor takes a quick glance at the scout.

TIENOR

Get back to Kashan! Raise the
alarm to evacuate! The council
will know what to do!

The scout turns and takes off at speed.

EXT. CASACCHIA (RODERICK) - CONTINUOUS

Roderick watches the battle from his dragon. He sees a lone
rider separate from the battle, riding southeast.

INT. HIDEAWAY CAVERN - NIGHT

The lords walk through the shifting walls, avoiding gaps. A
lava pit opens right before them and a wall shifts to reveal
a way through.

They pass through the gap. Five FLAMING SKELETON SOLDIERS
await them. They carry round shields and rapiers and stand
over seven feet tall. They leap at the lords.

The lords stumble back. They step back carefully dodging
attacks, pulling out their swords.

The counterattack is swift and the lords advance. Attacks
are blocked, swords cut through bone and pierce it, the
skeletons flinch.

A pit of lava opens up behind the skeletons and they fall in.
The skeletons melt instantly. The pit hardens over.

Galen wipes his eye brow with the back of his left hand.

GALEN

That was rather exhilarating.

TERUTH

Oh come now. They could have
skewered us for dinner.

FARIX

I admit, it was nice to fight
something that I can harm.

Isieth steps ahead of them.

ISIETH

I'm sure the worst is still to
come.

The lords continue on.

EXT. CASACCHIA (TIENOR) - NIGHT

Faint light from torches. Tienor swings away. His horse
dodges the assaults from Calidez. One dagger PIERCES
Tienor's left leg, he CRIES out.

He swings his sword down to his left quickly taking the upper
right portion of the soldiers body off, head and arm.

TIENOR

Fall back! Fall back!

He continues to fight.

EXT. CASACCHIA - CONTINUOUS

The Kashan army separates from the battle. Only three-
hundred ride away. Tienor is all alone.

The dragons come down from the sky and take chunks out of the
retreating army.

EXT. CASACCHIA (TIENOR) - CONTINUOUS

Tienor bleeds from many cuts now. He continues to flail his
sword around.

He passes out and falls from his horse into the bloody bodies on the ground. His body is perfectly still.

Soldiers walk over, and by, him.

EXT. CASACCHIA (RODERICK) - NIGHT

Roderick LAUGHS out. He rides his dragon over the battlefield, many torches below.

RODERICK
Reform ranks!

The army quickly shuffles beneath him into organized groups. Still over eighteen-thousand men and more than one-thousand dragons alive.

Roderick watches the few remaining Kashan soldiers retreat.

INT. HIDEAWAY CAVERN - NIGHT

The lords are in the heart of the maze. They take a right around a corner, then a left. A spot on the floor starts to turn red.

A BURST of lava shoots right in front of Isieth. She stumbles back, her face inches away from being melted off.

ISIETH
That was not what I needed!

She slams her sword into the rock wall. She breathes deeply.

FARIX
This is no morning stroll. Every step must be taken as if it were our last.

GALEN

The walls and floors are shifting
so often.

FARIX

The walls don't cause much of a
problem, and if you watch the
floors carefully, you can tell when
they will give way.

Farix starts to lead them on, Isieth moves in close behind
him.

FARIX

Stick close and keep a keen eye out
for skeletons. I'm sure more loom
within these walls.

Farix leads them through the maze. The walls continue to
shift, pits open up but are dodged.

INT. HIDEAWAY CAVERN - LATER

The path opens up into a wide bridge that extends over a
molten river.

On the other side is a monument of the four lords and Madrius
from the dragon war. (From left to right: Necidal, Saturi,
Madrius, Gredin and Faltor)

Below the monument is five chairs. The four for the lords
have the provincial emblems carved into the back.

FARIX

Guess there aren't anymore
skeletons.

Galen steps onto the bridge.

GALEN

Why is this bridge so wide?

Farix goes ahead of Galen.

FARIX

What does it matter? Come on,
let's get this done with.

The lords walk on the bridge. It starts to SHAKE. MOLTEN
WATERFALLS cut off the ends of the bridge.

The lords back into each other.

TERUTH

What's going on here?

Forty flaming skeletons, like before, appear on the bridge
ahead of them. They are lined up in rows of eight.

ISIETH

Farix, you ever heard of thinking
before you speak?

Farix pulls out his sword.

FARIX

A few times, but never took it too
seriously.

The rest of the lords take out their swords. The skeletons
advance on them.

ISIETH

Might be a good time to take it
seriously.

They line up, leaving four feet between them.

Eight skeletons crash on their line. Each take on two.
Quick work is made of them as well as the next two waves of
eight.

The next sixteen skeletons advance in a collective group.
The lords are pushed back towards the molten waterfall.

ISIETH

Anyone have a plan?

Isieth blocks an attack and ducks under another. A shield comes down to hit her.

Teruth intercepts it with his blade and kicks the skeleton arm aside.

Isieth lunges her blade into the skeletons rib cage and curves the sword up to sever the spine.

TERUTH

Everyone back into each other and we can fight in a circle. Maybe we can spin ourselves through to the other side.

GALEN

That sounds ridiculous.

TERUTH

You have a better idea?

They continue backing up.

FARIX

I know, we could flail around on the ground and hope they laugh to death.

GALEN

Even in the face of utmost danger you prove utterly hopeless Farix.

FARIX

It is a gift, I assure you.

ISIETH

Let's just do this.

They back into each other. The molten fall is five feet behind them. The lords advance like a whirling top.

Their swords swing in defensive fashion as they rotate positions. All attacks are blocked.

The skeletons step aside. The lords pass through, untouched, to the center of the bridge.

The lords line back up with some space between them and the fifteen skeletons. The skeletons advance on them, shields high, rapiers pointed straight out.

The lords charge forward. Just before they reach the skeletons they drop and roll, coming up in a motion that severs four of the skeletons lower spines.

Isieth and Galen lunge their swords forward from the roll and take out two more skeletons by their spines. Nine left.

Isieth spins away from an attack, her sword swings back on the spin and takes the skeletons head off.

Farix redirects an attack into the ground and kicks the shield of the skeleton right through the skull, shattering it. Seven left.

Galen blocks a series of blows from two skeletons.

Teruth slashes down and takes off one of the arms and then slices horizontally taking out the legs. The skeleton squirms on the ground with only a shield.

Galen still fends off the two skeletons. He ducks down, almost doing the splits, as he severs one spine and spins on the ground, taking off the others ankles. Four left.

Each lord matches up with a skeleton.

INT. HIDEAWAY CAVERN (GALEN) - SIMULTANEOUS

Galen quickly gets his against the edge of the bridge, knocks its sword away and it falls back over the edge.

INT. HIDEAWAY CAVERN (TERUTH) - SIMULTANEOUS

Teruth is overpowered, his arm tired. His sword is knocked away. He sidesteps a vertical cut for his head, then ducks a horizontal swing for his chest.

Teruth rolls sideways under another attack, picks up his sword and throws it through the skeleton's skull, splitting it in half.

INT. HIDEAWAY CAVERN (FARIX) - SIMULTANEOUS

Farix is engaged in a skillful dance of blocks and attacks with his skeleton. The skeleton tries the move Enrick used to disarm him but Farix recoils in time.

He attacks forward in a fury of assaults that the skeleton can barely block.

Farix slashes off the arms and splits the skeleton vertically in half. His sword comes up red from the burning skeleton.

INT. HIDEAWAY CAVERN (ISIETH) - SIMULTANEOUS

Isieth struggles with the skeleton attacking her. Her arm is flying around loosely, tired. She blocks a series of attacks, each one harder to recover.

She barely jumps a low slash at her shins, then blocks a swing to her stomach. Another swing comes down for her head.

She places the flat of her blade in her empty hand and blocks the blow. The force makes her drop her sword, a cut in her hand that supported the blade.

The skeleton raises its sword, tip down at Isieth.

A sword flies through the air and cuts the skeleton in half. It crumbles to the ground.

INT. HIDEAWAY CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Galen walks to Isieth and helps her up. She recovers her blade and sheathes it.

ISIETH

I owe you one.

Galen walks to the thrown blade and picks it up.

GALEN

Thought you could use a flying sword is all.

ISIETH

Still, you saved my life.

Farix and Teruth walk up to Isieth, they wipe the rubble from their swords and sheath them.

FARIX

I think I will point things out just as they happen from now on.

TERUTH

Great, then we can hate you at the exact moment we have a problem.

FARIX

Seems more convenient that way.

Isieth hits Farix and Teruth gently over the back of their heads.

ISIETH

Let's go.

The lords walk across the remaining part of the bridge and approach the monument.

Ghost Madrius appears in the center chair.

GHOST MADRIUS

Well done, lords of Isentia. As the rightful heirs to your thrones, you may now lay claim to these weapons forged in the heart of Faramine.

Ghost Madrius sweeps his staff from left to right. Ghosts of Necidal, Saturi, Gredin and Faltor appear in the stone chairs below the monument.

GHOST MADRIUS

Behold, your forefathers.

Isieth looks at Necidal with unwavering eyes.

FLASHBACK:

INT. COMMONWEALTH - COUNCIL HALL - AFTERNOON

Isieth(12) sits on NARAIN(36)'s lap. She looks intently at his face. He looks just like Necidal.

ISIETH

Tell me of your trip, father.

NARAIN

The days were warm, the sun ever shining.

(MORE)

NARAIN(cont'd)

Herds of deer would run through the tall grass of the plains so gracefully. The wind from riding was refreshing, and then I saw Kashan. It was glorious in the middle of the plains, the banners high above the city. What a beautiful city in the heart of a green world.

ISIETH

I can't wait to see it someday.

NARAIN

You will have that chance yet child.

Narain kisses her forehead.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HIDEAWAY CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

The other lords line up with their forefathers.

GHOST MADRIUS

Now step forward and claim your award.

The forefathers reach into their ghostly figures with both hands and pull out a weapon for each. They hand them over.

Isieth, Farix and Teruth each receive a fabulously crafted sword. It has a diamond blade that surges and shines with power yet is incredibly light.

Galen receives a magnificently carved bow with intricate carvings. Holes throughout the wide center create a beautiful image of flowers.

Galen pulls back on the string, the bow flexes way back.

GHOST MADRIUS

These weapons are yours to wield.
No one beyond your bloodlines will
be able to touch them.

The four ghost lords disappear.

GHOST MADRIUS

Your true test has yet to come.
You will find strength with a
united land... But most of all,
friendship and trust.

Ghost Madrius thrusts his staff towards the molten area they
walked through. A breeze blows through drying the sweat on
the lords' faces.

Torches now light the cavern from the outer walls. The ghost
bows and disappears into the monument.

Isieth still stares intently at the chair that Necdial
appeared in. She walks up to it and touches the emblem of
her province at the top of the chair.

EXT. ASCATH MOUNTAIN - HIDEAWAY - MORNING

It is raining. The sky is dark gray, the wind blowing.
THUNDER sounds to the west.

The lords come out from behind the waterfall.

FARIX

This rain is a strange omen.
Something isn't right.

TERUTH

We should rest up.

GALEN

All this so sudden. What is to
become of us?

FARIX

We must stay strong and true to each other. We have proven that we can fight as one this night. Let us prove it to Calidez and Lowen.

Isieth is already asleep under a rock overhang. Galen looks at her.

GALEN

Her strength lifts my heart. Despite all of her sorrow Isieth has made a believer out of me. I thought her to be a curse, but instead, I now find her to be a shining light in the dark ahead.

Galen walks over and sits next to her.

GALEN

Such beauty should not have to see such a time.

Teruth and Farix sit next to Galen.

TERUTH

These lands will know her name yet.

Teruth and Farix fall asleep.

Galen sits awake, looking at the huge tree. Water drips down into the pond, almost like MUSIC.

EXT. CASACCHIA - MORNING

Blood is spilled everywhere, thousands of men, horses and a few dragons are dead.

Tienor is soaked in blood, lying still. His chest moves, his exposed cuts crusted over with blood. He props himself up and looks around the field.

To the southeast the Calidez army marches towards Kashan.

EXT. CASACCHIA - SOUTH OF KASHAN - MORNING

Four thousand soldiers patrol behind the tens of thousands of Kashan citizens as they head south.

In the front of the vast amount of citizens is the council of seven and the scout.

FADE OUT:

THE END