

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

A group of young children race down a school corridor, laughing and giggling.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

An elderly female TEACHER looks admiringly at something on the wall as she clutches a book.

The chatter of the children grows louder as the TEACHER turns to see a group of them piling into the room and scrambling to seats.

TEACHER
Good morning, children. How
are you all finding you're
first day at school?
Exciting?

CHILDREN
(in unison)
Yes.

TEACHER
Now, does anybody know the
name of the land we live in?

The children look on in silence.

TEACHER
Anybody?

CHILD
Our home is called Litharnea.

TEACHER
That's right. This is a map
of the world we live in.

The TEACHER turns to a map on the wall. The map shows two continents - the northern and southern parts separated by a channel with a scattering of islands lying between them.

TEACHER

Once, our world had one
faith. One law. And one king.
Our land was called Lithe.
The time came when the people
of Lithe began to spread
themselves throughout the
world.

The CHILDREN continue to stare at the teacher, carefully
taking in her words.

TEACHER

A new land was discovered. A
group of Lithian people
settled there and the new
land was named Arthenea. The
people of both lands lived
together in peace. Soon
however, all of that changed.

The TEACHER points to the northern part of the map.

TEACHER

This is the part that we live
in. Today, I want to tell you
a story. A story about our
past. A story about a
struggle that led to this
wonderful world in which we
now live. Would you all like
to hear my story?

CHILDREN

(in unison)

Yes.

The TEACHER takes a seat and opens the book.

EXT. OUTERSPACE

A sea of stars sits over the black void of space.

TEACHER

(V. O.)

Nobody really knows where the
story begins, but I think
it's fair to say that it's
somewhere special. Somewhere
in the heavens.

A burst of light appears. The burst expands into a white
oval growing gradually larger.

There is something inside the oval. The oval gradually
becomes closer to reveal...

INT. HEAVEN

A white circular structure with a misty, white dome sits in the centre of a black, wall-less room.

A white cup with a bright-orange flame stands by the structure.

On the opposite side a white humanoid FIGURE stands staring at the cup, absolutely transfixed.

The orange flame dances in the midst of the black void.

The mists of the dome turn and roll, covering something. They begin fade to reveal a portal - a window into outer-space.

GOD

(O.S.)

Humans...

A planet appears through the mists. It is similar in appearance to Earth, but isn't Earth.

The white clouds of the planet are pierced, as it gradually draws closer, revealing two large continents with a channel separating them.

EXT. BATTLEGROUND. DAY

Two armies stand opposite each other waiting to attack.

MAJOR RIVENSTONE sits upon a horse surrounded by several highly decorated GAURDS.

RIVENSTONE

CHARGE!

The sound of many hooves can be heard as a number of HORSEMEN charge towards the line of FOOT SOLDIERS armed with spears.

GOD

(V.O.)

For years, their destructive ways have scarred my planet.

Horses and their riders are hit by flying arrows fired from the opposing army.

GOD

(cont'd)

The time has come for them to pay. To be judged. They will obey me, their Father. Their Lord. Or be banished from my world forever.

HORSEMEN clash with their enemies and FOOT SOLDIERS are trampled on by the horses.

Horses are pulled of their feet and their riders beaten.

INT. HEAVEN.

The mists of the white dome gather again.

GOD

(O.S.)

My son...

The white FIGURE turns to the vicinity of the voice. A wispy white face, almost glowing, levitates within the surrounding black void.

GOD

(cont'd)

I see you sit here with me, but you are alone. On this day I will send you to my world to test humanity and yourself. If you fail, you will pay the ultimate price. Should you succeed, you will be rewarded greatly.

Three glowing orbs spiral upwards from below.

GOD

(cont'd)

On my world I will give you human flesh. Human weaknesses. Human failings. Take these three orbs. Their purpose you will learn as your human years go by.

The FIGURE holds out the back of his right hand and the glowing orbs implant themselves there leaving three dark marks.

INT. HELL

A cavernous room glows orange. Various cavern entrances lead from a path. The cavern is dark and gloomy. A number of bubbling lava pools litter the floor.

GOD

(V.O.)

You must be wary as dark forces are at work. They know of your trial. They will do anything to stop you.

Dark spirits, with piercing white eyes, move around the cavern. Some float around the lava pools. Others sit on the cavern floor.

The labyrinth of caves eventually leads to a large room. A winged monster sits at the far end. Its entire body engulfed in a fire, burning. Burning forever. It's the DEVIL.

INT. HEAVEN

The white face is still present.

GOD

(V.O.)

You must destroy these forces. For these are the forces that hinder righteousness in the world that you are soon to exist. Now go...

A large bubble with a white, semi-transparent skin rises from the portal. The FIGURE rises up and is engulfed inside it. A white tear appears in the black void and the bubble, with the FIGURE inside, shoots through it.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

JUDD and his ASSISTANT peer at the night sky as they sit in a field. The ASSISTANT peers through his primitive, but ornate telescope. JUDD also scours the sky with his eyes.

ASSISTANT

This is useless. Do we have any idea what we're actually looking for?

JUDD

Have patience.

A ball of light with a long tail shoots from outer space and races across the sky.

ASSISTANT
 (pointing to the
 bolt)
 Look at that meteorite!

Inside the ball, two other balls of slightly bluer light appear and start to swirl around each other.

The white bolt splits releasing the two blue balls - one ball stretches into a beam and heads straight to the ground. The other carries on travelling until it too stretches out and hits the ground in another place.

JUDD looks astonished and takes out a piece of parchment and a stick of charcoal. He quickly draws what he has just seen.

INT. TAVERN - BAR - NIGHT

The tavern is crowded with drinkers. Metal tankards filled with beer litter the tables. A few women drape themselves over the men as they drink.

The men laugh as they enjoy the female company. Some men are slouched over the tables and have obviously been there all night.

TEACHER
 (V.O.)
 Those objects weren't ordinary. They were the beginnings of two very special people. They were souls.

INT. TAVERN - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The ambient noise of the bar filters through to the upstairs landing of the unkempt tavern.

The door of a bedroom swings open. A scantily-dressed woman, BEYLA, stumbles outside dragging an equally undressed SAILOR by the hand. She leads him into the corridor.

SAILOR
 Beyla, you're such a tease.

BEYLA laughs and giggles as she pulls the SAILOR. They stop to kiss occasionally while they move through the corridor.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

Nobody really knows why one of the carriers was chosen. Perhaps it was her unknown stature. Her position in the world.

BEYLA pushes the SAILOR against a door.

BEYLA

You're not going anywhere.

BEYLA lifts the catch on the door and she and the SAILOR stumble through it.

INT. TAVERN - BEDROOM - NIGHT

The bedroom is as equally as scruffy as the rest of the building. The SAILOR falls through the doorway as BEYLA is kissing and caressing him.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

So few on that planet at that time could have known how important those beings were.

BEYLA leads the SAILOR by the hand into the room. She stops at the foot of the bed and turns to the SAILOR. She kisses him on the lips and pushes her body against his.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

Certainly not the person one of them took hold of. She could never have imagined what events lay ahead for her child.

BEYLA and the SAILOR sit down.

SAILOR

I have to get back.

BEYLA

Already?

SAILOR

All your chasing has worn me out.

The SAILOR kisses BEYLA before leaving the room.

EXT. TAVERN - NIGHT

The bolt of light shoots into the tavern via the roof.

INT. TAVERN - BEDROOM - NIGHT

BEYLA jumps in shock as the bolt of light hits her in the stomach. Her eyes slowly close as she drifts to sleep.

EXT. PALACE - NIGHT.

The palace is huge and lavish in structural design.

It is raining heavily. Now and again, there is a clap of thunder.

JUDD, dressed in a brown overcoat, walks up to the gate-house and bangs on the door.

The door clunks open and a uniformed GUARD appears.

GUARD

Yes?

JUDD

I must speak with Queen Luana.

GUARD

What business do you have with her majesty at this hour?

JUDD

It is a private matter. She is expecting me.

The guard looks at JUDD for a moment.

GUARD

Very well, I'll find out if her majesty is awake.

The door to the gate house clunks shut.

JUDD continues to get drenched in the rain.

The iron gates screech open. A tall slender middle-aged man, ABBOTT appears.

JUDD

Abbott, I must speak with Queen Luana, it is very urgent.

ABBOTT

Her majesty was just about to
retire for the evening, but
she will see you.

ABBOTT leads JUDD through the gates and up to the giant
double-doors of the palace. The two men enter the building.

INT. PALACE - NIGHT

ABBOTT leads JUDD into a large, extravagantly decorated
room. A large mantelpiece encompasses a blazing fire. The
room is dimly lit by oil lamps.

ABBOTT

Wait here.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

In the early years of her
reign, Queen Luana was a
respected ruler. Her people
loved her. But later events
changed all of that.

JUDD continues to wait, warming his hands over the fire. He
wipes away the rain-water from his brow.

QUEEN LUANA, about forty years old, dressed in elegant
evening wear enters the room. ABBOTT follows her in. JUDD
turns from the fire to address her.

LUANA

I expect you have important
news for me.

JUDD

Your majesty, I have been
searching the sky as you
asked.

LUANA

Go on.

JUDD

Well, tonight I saw
something. It wasn't... usual.

LUANA

What was it you saw? Describe
it to me.

JUDD

I saw a bolt of light shoot from the heavens. At first I thought it was just a meteor, but it well. Well it..

LUANA

Judd, I am very tired. Please gather your thoughts.

JUDD takes out the ragged piece of parchment from his pocket.

JUDD

Here.

JUDD hands LUANA the piece of parchment.

JUDD

I've never seen anything like this before.

LUANA

Very well. That will be all.

JUDD

But your majesty, whatever do you think it is?

LUANA frowns at JUDD. JUDD leaves.

ABBOTT

Do you think it might be important?

LUANA

Perhaps I should wait a while. There is some time before that alleged day.

LUANA bends down to the fireplace and places the parchment into the flames. The parchment curls as the fire engulfs it, turning it to ash.

EXT. MARKETPLACE - DAY

A courtyard sits between groups of stone buildings. The courtyard holds a heavily-crowded marketplace.

SUPER: "Seventeen years later"

Men and women wearing simple clothing wander from stall-to-stall carrying their goods.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

Many years passed after that extraordinary sighting. The story continues in a small town in the lands of Lithe, and follows a young boy called Malkin.

MALKIN, a teenage boy, and a young girl, MARIAN, weave through the crowded marketplace.

MARIAN

Are you looking forward to your birthday tomorrow?

MALKIN looks down at a bruise on his arm.

MALKIN

What is there to look forward to?

MARIAN

Hey! Look at that stall. I haven't seen that before.

A stall holds a variety of ornate objects. MARIAN heads over to the stall dragging a reluctant MALKIN with her. The stall TRADER wears a long purple robe, rather unlike the other market traders.

MARIAN

What are you selling?

TRADER

I sell the artefacts I collect on my travels throughout these lands.

MALKIN

What's this one?

MALKIN looks intrigued by an object carved from wood, depicting three snakes coiling around each other. A metal bar hangs in between the snakes with two small balls attached to the bottom. It rotates to-and-fro.

MALKIN reaches out to touch the ornament revealing three dark-brown circles on the back of his hand.

The TRADER taps MALKIN's hand.

TRADER

It's a time-piece. Strange markings you've got there.

MALKIN

They're just birthmarks.

TRADER

Indeed. Now, are you two going to buy anything or will you just stand and stare?

MALKIN

I'm sorry. Come on, Marian.

MALKIN walks away. MARIAN follows.

The pair reach another stall with expensive-looking metallic ornaments. A large silver urn catches MARIAN's eye.

MARIAN

Would you like a present for your birthday?

MALKIN

You can't afford to buy me anything like that.

As the VENDOR is serving, MARIAN picks up the urn and hides it under her coat.

MALKIN

No, wait!

The VENDOR spots MARIAN in the act.

VENDOR

Put that back right now, you thieving swine!

MARIAN is startled and drops the urn. MALKIN and MARIAN make their escape through the crowds.

VENDOR

Help! Thief!

Three chatting GAURDS hear the VENDOR's cry for help and spot MALKIN running. The GUARDS pursue him.

MALKIN passes a stall with crates piled up around it. He pulls some of them over and GUARD 1 falls over them. The remaining men continue to make chase.

GAURD 1

Get back here you little brat.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

MALKIN runs through an alleyway and into the backdoor of a run-down building. GUARD 2 spots him.

GUARD 2 starts to head down the alleyway, but GUARD 3 stops him.

INT. ORPHANAGE. DAY

The orphanage is old and run down. The guardian, MANDEL, a middle-aged man, is mopping the floor of the corridor. MALKIN races in and trips over the bucket, spilling it.

MANDEL

Be careful, you little sod.

MALKIN darts into a cupboard.

The sound of banging on the front door rings through the hallway. MANDEL ceases mopping and turns to the front door.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - DAY

The GUARD'S wait patiently for a response to their knocking.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

Mandel was a very cruel man.
It wasn't until later that we
discovered that he had taken
something. Something beyond
our world.

After a pause, the latch clanks and the door creak open.

Inside the doorway stands MANDEL.

MANDEL

What do you want?

GUARDN 2

We believe a thief is hiding
in here. Who are you?

MAN

A thief? Here? Not likely.
I'm Mandel, I look after this
orphanage. Now be on your
way.

MANDEL tries to slam the door shut, but GUARD 2 jams his foot in the way and barges in.

INT. ORPHANAGE - DAY

A long corridor leads to several closed doorways. There is a stairway ahead of the front door.

GUARD 2
You don't mind if we look
around, do you?

The GUARD's wait for no invitation. GUARD 2 heads upstairs and GUARD 3, staying downstairs, begins to look in the rooms.

MANDEL
You won't find anything.
There are only children here.

GUARD 3 walks over to the cupboard where MALKIN is hiding.

GUARD 3
What's in here?

MANDEL
Oh, that's just the broom
cupboard.

GUARD 3
Why is it locked?

MANDEL
It's jammed. Been like that
for years.

GUARD 3
(looking at pool
of water)
You spilled your bucket?

GUARD 2 returns downstairs where MANDEL is standing. GUARD 3 joins him.

GUARD 2 gives GUARD 3 a questioning glance.

GUARD 3
Nothing. He must have slipped
out through another door.

GUARD 2
(to Mandel)
If you find the culprit, you
will inform us won't you?

The GUARDS head toward the front door and exit the building leaving the door open behind them.

MANDEL

Thank you. Do come again.
Perhaps next time we can
drink tea.

MANDEL slams the door shut and turns to face the cupboard that MALKIN slipped into. He scowls.

MANDEL

Come out from that cupboard.
Now.

MALKIN cautiously exits the cupboard.

MANDEL grabs MALKIN and pushes him into the wall.

MANDEL unfastens and removes his belt. He callously beats MALKIN with it several times. MALKIN screams.

MANDEL

I spend five years fighting
those bastard Artheneans and
this is the thanks I get.
Assigned to watch over you
lot. I will not have you
bring shame on this place.

MANDEL releases his grip on MALKIN, who drops to the floor in agony.

MANDEL

Happy birthday.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

The sun is high above the horizon and shining brightly. Fields of green grass cover the ground. A field is split by a wooden fence.

The sound of distant barking dogs grows louder.

A man of about fifty, wearing smart clothing, NYAN runs up to the gate and clambers over. Shaking, he looks back. He takes in a deep breath of air and carries on running.

Two uniformed SOLDIERS are in pursuit. One has two dogs on leads.

SOLDIER 1 climbs over. The other, with the dogs, also attempts to climb the fence but the dogs pull him and he stumbles. SOLDIER 1 turns to help his comrade.

SOLDIER 2

Don't waste time with me, get
after him.

SOLDIER 1

He can't get away now, he's
cornered. The dogs will bring
him down.

SOLDIER 2 releases the two dogs from their restraints and
the dogs slip through the gaps in the fence. They
accelerate towards NYAN.

NYAN reaches a cliff edge. He pauses, staring down at the
swelling waves below him. He looks back to see the dogs
growing ever closer.

NYAN turns back to the cliff edge. He takes a deep breath
and dives into the seawater below him.

The dogs, now without a scent, wander aimlessly around. The
SOLDIERS catch up and peer over the edge.

SOLDIER 1

There's no way he could have
survived that. He'll have
been smashed by the rocks.

SOLDIER 2

And the under currents will
drag him out to sea.

INT. PALACE - STUDY - DAY

QUEEN LUANA, now in her mid-fifties, sits writing with a
quill, occasionally dunking it in a dish of ink.

There is a knock on the study door. LUANA looks up.

LUANA

You may enter.

The door opens and ABBOTT enters.

LUANA

Is something the matter?

ABBOTT

Your majesty, we have word
about your cousin. He has
returned to Lithe.

LUANA

You've heard from my cousin?
Nyan?

ABBOTT

That is who he claims to be,
your majesty.

LUANA drops the quill and stands.

LUANA

Where is he? Do you know if he's well? Why has he not been brought to me?

ABBOTT

He is at Durkenham Castle. I'm afraid he is too weak to be moved. He is very sick.

LUANA

Then I must go to him.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT.

The bedroom is bare. The wind howls at the window. MALKIN lies on his bed. There is a knock at the door and it opens. MARIAN enters carrying a piece of parchment.

MARIAN sees the red marks on MALKIN's back and gasps in horror.

MALKIN

Don't worry, I'm fine.

MARIAN

It's my fault isn't it?

MARIAN starts to cry. She sits down next to MALKIN.

MARIAN

If I hadn't have taken that urn, he wouldn't have beaten you like that.

MALKIN sits up and puts his arm around MARIAN.

MARIAN

What are we going to do, Malkin?

MALKIN

Well, I'm leaving soon.

MARIAN

Where will you go?

MALKIN

I need to find love, Marian. There is somebody out there waiting for me. I can feel it.

MARIAN

But then you'll leave me here
with him. Can I come with
you?

MALKIN

I don't know where I'm going.
But one day I'll come back
for you.

MARIAN

You promise?

MALKIN

I promise.

MARIAN smiles and nods. She hands MALKIN the parchment.

MARIAN

It's for your birthday. I
hope you like it.

MALKIN looks at it. It's a charcoal sketch of MALKIN.

MALKIN smiles as he holds back tears. He stands and hugs
MARIAN before pinning the drawing to his wall.

MALKIN

It's time we got some sleep.

MARIAN leaves the room. MALKIN lies down and drifts off to
sleep.

EXT. CAVERN (DREAM)

MALKIN looks around a dark cavern with a number of exits.
The walls of the cavern are covered with slime.

Loud growls are heard coming from another room.

A large two-headed beast with a scorpion-tail appears from
a cave. It roars fiercely at MALKIN.

INT. ORPHANAGE - BEDROOM - DAWN

MALKIN's eyes open suddenly. He sits up and looks around
the room to reassure himself of where he is. He takes a
breath and stands to get dressed.

INT. ORPHANAGE - FOYER - DAWN

MALKIN creeps to the front door of the orphanage. He turns the key to unlock the door. There is a clank as he lifts the latch. He tries to open the door quietly, but it makes a creak.

MANDEL

(O. S.)

Where do you think you're
going at this hour of the
morning?

MALKIN turns to see MANDEL at the top of the stairs. He hesitates.

MALKIN makes darts out and slams the door shut behind him.

EXT. MARKETPLACE - DAWN

The marketplace is almost vacant. Only a few VENDORS are around setting up their stalls. MALKIN begins a walk through the marketplace.

There are three roads from the marketplace. The one he just came from and two others. The first of the other two lies between two large buildings looking like it leads further into town. The other leads to a trail with a gate, probably to the town's outskirts.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

Malkin didn't know where he
was going. He knew little of
the world in which he lived.
All he had ever known was his
home and his cruel guardian.

A shiny item on the floor catches MALKIN's eye. It's a silver coin. He picks it up and looks down each road.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

In the end he took a chance.
He let fate decide.

MALKIN flips the coin in the air and holds out his palm where the coin lands. He looks down at it and looks toward the second path. He heads towards it.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

And so his journey began.
Perhaps if he knew what
events lay ahead for him, he
would never have left.

EXT. DURKENHAM CASTLE - DAY.

A wooden-carriage, surrounded by horses carrying BODYGUARDS, passes through the portcullis of a large stone castle. It stops in the courtyard. A BODYGUARD opens the door of the carriage. LUANA steps out, followed by ABBOTT.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

Many years had passed since
Luana had seen her cousin,
Nyan. He disappeared suddenly
after an affair with an
Arthenean.

A uniformed GUARD greets LUANA and ABBOTT at the main gates.

LAUNA

Where is my cousin?

GUARD

Please, follow me.

The GUARD heads into the castle. LUANA takes in a breath and follows with ABBOTT.

INT. DURKENHAM CASTLE - BEDROOM - SAME

NYAN lies in a bed. He looks very pale and weak. He is being tended to, by a NURSE.

The door opens and LUANA enters hesitantly. She gestures to ABBOTT to wait outside.

LUANA slowly walks to the bedside and stares down at NYAN.

LUANA

(to the nurse)

You may leave us now.

The NURSE rises from the chair and exits the room.

Tears form in LUANA's eyes. She sits in the chair and picks up a damp cloth and douses NYAN's forehead.

NYAN stirs from his sleep.

LUANA

Nyan, my cousin, you have
aged a great deal since I
last saw you.

NYAN

Luana, is that you. Thank
goodness I made it back.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

Nyan sent word to her Luana via a secret messenger about his hiding place. She didn't like it, but she knew how badly Nyan wanted to be with his lover.

NYAN breathes short, sharp breaths. LUANA continues to douse his forehead.

NYAN

Luana, have you managed to mother an heir?

LUANA

You know I am unable to have children. There is nobody to take the throne when I depart this world.

NYAN

That is why I have come to see you. You see, there is an heir for the throne.

LUANA becomes confused.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

Nyan had a daughter with his lover, but he never told Luana. She had felt enough hurt in her life already. His daughter, Beyla went on to have a son.

LUANA continues to dab NYAN's forehead.

LUANA

I'd always believed you lived quietly in Arthenea. I expected better of you.

NYAN

I didn't like it at first, but it turned out to be the perfect cover for us.

LUANA stands and turns to the wall. She begins to cry.

LUANA turns to face NYAN again. She sits back down in the chair.

NYAN

Our daughter secretly returned to Lithe with her son after I told her the truth about her roots. Years later, she wrote to me, telling me that she was dying.

LUANA

An heir, living here without even knowing who he is? We must find him.

LUANA leans over to NYAN and kisses him on the cheek and embraces him.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

MALKIN walks through a woodland, admiring nature. Trees reach high above him leaving only a miniscule area of sky. A dirt trail meanders through the over-grown heather that comes up to his knees. Birds singing in the trees and running water provide the only sound.

EXT. STREAM - DAY

The trail that MALKIN follows, runs alongside a stream. He pauses by the side of the water and looks across it. A FISHERMAN sits on the bank with rod in hand.

FISHERMAN

Good morning.

Staring in awe at the beautiful scene, he takes in a deep breath of air and stretches his arms out to the side. He smiles and carries on his journey.

The FISHERMAN looks around as the wind whistles in the trees.

The stream stretches out to either side of the FISHERMAN. A black wispy figure floats towards him. It pauses by some reeds before shooting into his body.

The FISHERMAN blinks. He stands and pulls a hood over his head.

EXT. TOWN OUTSKIRTS - DAY

Following the trail, MALKIN comes across a couple, RISA and TERRIS. TERRIS is pulling on a rope attached to a cart that is lying on its side.

A horse, strapped to the cart, is in distress. Sacks, fallen from the cart, litter the ground.

MALKIN walks over to the couple.

RISA
Try and calm it, would you?

MALKIN manages to get a hold of the reins of the horse and tries to comfort it. The horse begins to calm.

TERRIS
There's no way we could lift this on our own. Could you go and find help?

The horse is suddenly spooked by something and kicks MALKIN in the head. MALKIN drops to the floor.

RISA looks along the trail.

RISA
Look.

The hooded FISHERMAN appears from around the bend. He slowly walks over to the cart. TERRIS gives the FISHERMAN a desperate look.

The FISHERMAN just stands there, apparently staring at TERRIS.

TERRIS
Please sir, we need your help.

The hooded man reaches under his coat. He pulls out a long blade.

FISHERMAN
Get down on the ground.
(turning to Risa) Both of you.

TERRIS slowly sits down on the ground and RISA sits next to him.

RISA
We have no money.

TERRIS
You can take those. Look, we have sacks full of wheat and barley.

The FISHERMAN takes a step toward the couple, bringing the blade above his head.

There is a thud and the FISHERMAN drops to the floor. MALKIN is revealed standing behind him holding a sack in his hand.

RISA looks astonished.

MALKIN has a large gash on the side of his head.

MALKIN pulls on the rope and the cart begins to shift. TERRIS helps MALKIN. The cart lifts upright.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY.

The horse-driven cart passes over a dusty track, in the midst of a number of large fields.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

Malkin had made new friends.
They allowed him to stay with
them in exchange for working
on their farm.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - FURTHER - DAY.

The cart appears over the brow of a hill, rocking as it rides over the pebbly trail.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

On the homeward journey,
Terris and Risa talked about
their son, Reagan. They
weren't to know that in the
months to come, Malkin would
alter Reagan's life forever.

INT. PALACE - DAY

RIVENSTONE, now a General, and two OFFICERS stand around a large, strategic map. The men talk as they move wooden pieces around it, as if it were just some game of chess.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

At the time this was going
on, there were men who would
plan more wars and
unwittingly plan their own
demise.

The men continue to plan.

EMPEROR OKEN, around the same age as LUANA, barges into the room.

OKEN
 What is going on here?
 General Rivenstone, what are
 you doing?

RIVENSTONE
 We are planning an attack,
 sir.

OKEN
 I didn't order this. We are
 not going to invade Lithe.

RIVENSTONE
 Sir, we can take their lands.
 Our armies outnumber theirs.

OKEN knocks over the pieces and pulls the map from the table.

EXT. TERRIS' HOUSE - EVENING

A small thatched-roof cottage stands in the middle of some fields, separated by stony paths.

MALKIN, TERRIS and RISA reach the front door of the house. TERRIS opens the door and enters the building followed by RISA and MALKIN.

INT. TERRIS' HOUSE - EVENING

The interior of the house is immaculate. Everything in its place. REEGAN, about MALKIN's age, greets his family as they enter.

REEGAN
 You're very late. What
 happened?

TERRIS
 It's a long story.

RISA
 Come with me Malkin. I'll fix
 that wound.

RISA leads MALKIN through the house.

EXT. TEMPLE. SUNSET

The sky glows orange as the sun sets behind a structure of domed buildings.

INT. TEMPLE - SAME

A middle-aged man, dressed in a scarlet robe, RIMAL sits behind a wooden table. A lamp next to him flickers in the wind as it blows through the slats of wooden shutters over the window.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

While all this was taking place, the time was ticking down to what Rimal, the head cleric of the Arthenean faith, believed to be the greatest trial of humanity this world would ever see.

RIMAL thumbs through a book. The pages are stiff and slightly yellowed with age.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

You see, it was all written. Written by the unknown traveller, many years before the wars began.

The wind whistles through the window.

RIMAL continues to read.

As RIMAL turns the pages, revealed are:

Three circles in a triangle. A one-eyed monster. A two-headed beast with a scorpion-tail. A winged, flaming monster - the Devil. Some beautifully hand-written text. RIMAL pauses on the text to read.

RIMAL

(V.O.)

When the great and terrible day arrives, all who are wicked will perish where they stand. But for those who obey their Lord, they will be like lambs in a field. And before that day comes, not one bearing the markings will descend to destroy the roots of evil. Not one that is righteous. Not one with the will to ward-off the darkness.

RIMAL flicks to the final page. It is completely blank. He looks up and stares into space, thinking.

INT. TERRIS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT.

MALKIN, TERRIS, RISA and REEGAN sit around a table eating a meal.

REEGAN

I guess I have a lot to thank you for, Malkin.

TERRIS finishes eating and sits back in his chair.

TERRIS

That was delicious, Risa. You've outdone yourself once again.

RISA

It's just stew. Malkin, do you like fairs?

MALKIN

I don't know. I've never been to one.

REEGAN

You've never been to a fair?

MALKIN

Never.

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

RIMAL and a cleric, WARAK, walk down a long, wide walkway with stone pillars standing along both sides. The path leads to a doorway of a white-stone building surrounded by a lawn.

WARAK

Rimal, how do you expect to find our saviour?

RIMAL

I'm hoping Queen Luana is searching for him.

They continue to walk.

WARAK

But however will he be identified?

RIMAL

He will bear the markings and he will have the visions. But time is running out. Warak, will you send word to Luana?

WARAK

Of course eminence, but we must do it discretely.

RIMAL and WARAK reach the doorway.

RIMAL

Agreed. Now let's get on with this ceremony.

They enter.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

MALKIN sleeps in his bed.

INT. HEAVEN (DREAM)

An orange flame, burning in a white cup, dances within a black void.

The image of the cup fades and three glowing orbs appear. They rise up, swirling around each other, leaving white trails that form interlocking spirals.

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

RIMAL stands dressed in his elaborate red robe, next to WARAK. A CLERIC stands facing them.

The Arthenean symbol hangs on the wall behind them - a circular loop with two horizontal scythe-like arms, one pointing up and one pointing down.

WARAK hands RIMAL a solid silver form of the Arthenean symbol attached to a chain.

RIMAL places it around the CLERIC's neck and fastens it.

The CLERIC looks at it. He lifts it from his chest and holds it.

CLERIC

Whatever do you think it represents?

RIMAL

Even to this very day we are uncertain. But one thing we do know is that the dark spirits roaming this world fear it. They loathe it. Whatever it means, I'm sure we are soon to find out.

EXT. FARMLANDS - DAWN

A number of VENDORS set up their stalls as the sun rises over a green field. Hedge-rows separate the immaculately kept lands. The VENDORS work hard in the perfect weather.

MALKIN and REEGAN walk towards the busyness.

MALKIN

So what do we do?

REEGAN

Oh, we're supposed to help the traders set up. But really, we just get in their way.

MALKIN smiles. They continue to walk.

MALKIN looks into a neighbouring field.

MALKIN

Look at that!

A falcon flies around a FALCONER wearing a leather gauntlet over his arm.

REEGAN

He recently moved to the village. He trains the falcons that live in the forest over there. Come on, you can meet him.

MALKIN and REEGAN walk towards the FALCONER.

EXT. FIELD - DAWN

The FALCONER whirls some bait on a string as the falcon flies around it. The falcon catches it before flying away into the distance.

MALKIN and REEGAN amble over to him. MALKIN looks on in awe. He gasps with excitement as the falcon swoops toward him before landing on the FALCONER's arm. It pauses for a moment before flying away into the air.

The FALCONER removes the gauntlet and passes it towards MALKIN.

FALCONER
Would you like to try?

MALKIN accepts it. He puts it on.

The FALCONER whistles. The falcon flies toward them, circling from above before landing on MALKIN's arm.

MALKIN
It's amazing!

The wind blusters. Blustering no ordinary sound, but a strange, eerie gust. It spooks the falcon and it flies away, but not before scratching MALKIN on the cheek making him flinch.

INT. TERRIS' HOUSE - DAY

MALKIN sits on a stool in the living room of the house. REEGAN and RISA stand around him. RISA dabs cloth over the scratch.

RISA
I think you'll live. You both can carry on working. The day is drawing on and there is a lot to be done before tomorrow.

EXT. FARMLAND - DAY

The fields of the farm are now crowded with people. Some wander around browsing ornaments and artefacts. Others play games at stalls, laughing and joking around. The atmosphere is a happy one.

TERRIS and RISA wander around making sure that everybody is having a good time. MALKIN and REEGAN are with them.

The four reach a stall with bows racked up. Arrows sit in a holder next to them. Targets stand in a line some distance away. MEN are firing arrows at the targets. Some hitting, some missing.

The four stop and watch.

RISA

You three play some games. I need a rest.

RISA walks onward.

REEGAN takes a bow and a number of arrows. He walks over to the line of MEN.

REEGAN fires two consecutive shots at the targets. They both hit the edges.

VENDOR

Very good. You've been practicing since last year.

TERRIS

Malkin, would you like to try?

MALKIN

Oh, I don't know...

REEGAN

Try, Malkin. You'll be fine.

MALKIN cautiously steps forward, accepting the bow and one remaining arrow from REEGAN. He readies himself at the line. He draws back the bow, but it springs out of his hands onto the floor.

The VENDOR and a member of the crowd, DARAY, laugh. TERRIS picks up the bow and hands it to MALKIN.

TERRIS

Here, grip the bow firmly, but no too hard.

MALKIN holds the bows as TERRIS positions it in his hands...

TERRIS

Make a strong stance.

Malkin gets into position...

TERRIS

Grip the arrow and pull back.

Malkin grips the arrow feather...

TERRIS
Take aim and correct for
wind.

Malkin adjusts...

TERRIS
Slowly draw back the string.

Malkin draws back...

TERRIS
Now release gently.

Malkin releases.

The arrow flies through the air. The MEN and VENDOR look on. It hits the target off-centre.

VENDOR
Not bad for a beginner.

A man, DARAY, steps from the line.

DARAY
He got lucky.

REEGAN
Don't be sore just because
he's a better shot than you.

DARAY laughs.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - DAY

A SOLDIER bangs on the door of the orphanage.

INT. ORPHANAGE - SAME

MANDEL is sitting, relaxing by a fireplace. He hears the banging on the door. Frustratingly, he goes to answer the call.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - SAME

The SOLDIER waits patiently. He is about to bang on the door again when the door opens, revealing MANDEL.

SOLDIER
Do you know of any child by
the name of Malkin living
here?

MANDEL

Malkin? Yes? Why? What's he done this time?

SOLDIER

May I come in?

MANDEL says nothing. He let's the SOLDIER in.

INT. ORPHANAGE - MALKIN'S BEDROOM - DAY

MANDEL enters the room followed by the SOLDIER. The SOLDIER looks around the room. He notices Marian's sketch of MALKIN on the wall. He walks over to it.

SOLDIER

This is Malkin?

MANDEL

Yes.

The SOLDIER removes the sketch from the wall and folds it before putting it in his pocket.

MANDEL

What trouble is he in now?

SOLDIER

That is not your business. Do you know where he went?

MANDEL

I've no idea.

SOLDIER

If he returns you will let us know won't you?

MANDEL, looking concerned, nods.

EXT. FARMLAND - DAY

A number of people have gathered around the stall where MALKIN, TERRIS and REEGAN remain. The targets have been moved to a much further distance than before.

DARAY

Now we'll see who the better shot is. The closest to the centre of the target is the winner.

The MAN stands at the line and takes aim. He slowly draws back before taking his shot. The arrow flies through the air and hits the outer rim of the bulls-eye.

DARAY

Beat that.

MALKIN readies himself. He too fires an arrow toward the target. It also hits the outer rim of the target. TERRIS, REEGAN and the MAN carefully examine it.

TERRIS

I'd call that a draw.

DARAY bemusedly walks away.

REEGAN and TERRIS grin. The people in the crowd applaud.

RISA arrives back at the stall.

RISA

Have you three been having fun?

REEGAN

You just missed the show.

MALKIN, REEGAN and TERRIS walk onward. RISA follows. DARAY catches up with RISA.

DARAY

That's a smart young man you've found there.

RISA

Yes, he's been tremendous.

DARAY

Some nasty injuries he's got. How did he manage those?

RISA

He was kicked by a horse and was scratched by a falcon yesterday.

DARAY

A falcon? Well, I have to be getting home now.

DARAY walks away.

INT. TERRIS' HOUSE - REEGAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

MALKIN and REEGAN sleep in their beds. Everything is peaceful. A glow of orange at the window gradually becomes more intense.

EXT. TERRIS' HOUSE - SAME

DARAY and two BYSTANDERS, carrying flaming torches, bang on the door of the house.

INT. TERRIS' HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME

MALKIN and REEGAN begin to stir from their sleep as the banging on the front door continues.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

The people of Lithe grew to hate their royal family. When Luana visited towns and villages she was often met with anger. Sometimes worse.

INT. TERRIS' HOUSE - TERRIS' BEDROOM - SAME

TERRIS quickly puts on his night-gown. RISA sits up in the bed.

RISA

Whoever would that be at this hour?

TERRIS

I don't know, but I've got words for them.

EXT. TERRIS' HOUSE - SAME

DARAY and the two BYSTANDERS continue to wait at the door.

The door opens quickly, revealing TERRIS.

TERRIS

Daray! What brings you this far out of town at this hour? Have you gone mad?

DARAY

We've come for the boy.

TERRIS

Malkin? Why?

BYSTANDER 1 steps forward.

BYSTANDER 1

We believe he is a Catcher. You know? Someone of importance?

TERRIS
Whatever makes you say that?

DARAY
The strength of a horse?
Yesterday at the fair. The
eyes of a falcon? We are
certain he is one of them.

BYSTANDER 1
He should be cast from this
town. He could spawn trouble
for us.

INT. TERRIS' HOUSE - REEGAN'S BEDROOM - SAME

MALKIN and REEGAN peer out of the window at the commotion
outside.

MALKIN
What's going on?

REEGAN
I'll find out.

EXT. TERRIS HOUSE. HALLWAY. SAME

TERRIS is on his way to the bedroom

REEGAN appears from the door of the.

REEGAN
What's happening?

TERRIS
Reegan, there are people here
to take Malkin away.

REEGAN
Why?

TERRIS
Because of who they think he
is.

REEGAN looks confused.

TERRIS
There's no time to explain.
Just take Malkin to the
outskirts of the lands and
come straight back.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

REEGAN and MALKIN run through the field carrying their belongings.

REEGAN slows to a walk as he puffs and pants.

MALKIN
Why did they want to get rid
of me?

REEGAN
Because of who you are.

MALKIN
Who I am?

REEGAN shrugs.

REEGAN
I have to get back now.

MALKIN is saddened.

REEGAN
Where will you go?

MALKIN
I don't know. Anywhere.
Hopefully find some
adventure.

REEGAN
Well, good luck.

REEGAN offers his hand to MALKIN. MALKIN accepts and they shake.

MALKIN turns and begins his journey into the unknown. He walks. REEGAN looks on. MALKIN disappears into the darkness.

REEGAN
Adventure?

REEGAN pauses to think for a moment.

REEGAN
Malkin, wait! I'm coming with
you!

REEGAN runs after MALKIN and he too disappears into the darkness.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

Malkin had forged a new
friendship. Together they
sought adventure. And one day
they would find it.

EXT. DOCKYARD - SUNRISE

The water in the dock ripples in a calm breeze.

Two fishing boats, that have seen better days, are dwarfed
by a large merchant ship.

The dockyard is littered with crates waiting to be hauled
onto docked ships.

Every so often, horse-drawn carts park by the waterside and
crates are unloaded by SAILORS.

A fat, uniform-clad man stands by the large ship overseeing
the loading of his vessel.

REEGAN

Where is this ship going?

CAPTAIN

This ship is heading for the
islands. But we do not take
passengers.

REEGAN walks away from the ship. MALKIN follows.

MALKIN

We could sneak aboard while
nobody is looking?

REEGAN

We'd be caught.

INT. FREE SPIRIT - CARGO HOLD - DAY.

MALKIN and REEGAN sit in a room with piled-up barrels. The
barrels are marked with 'High-water Shipping'.

The room is lit by a lamp sitting between the pair. They
shiver in the cold.

MALKIN

It's freezing in here.

REEGAN

Sit closer to the lamp. It's
quite warm.

MALKIN

Let's open one of these barrels. There's bound to be some liquor in them.

REEGAN stands and turns to a barrel. He opens the tap and liquid pours out. He puts his mouth under the flow.

REEGAN

This is Arthenean ale.

MALKIN opens another tap and starts drinking the liquor.

INT. PALACE - NIGHT

LUANA sits in her study. She is holding a brown cloak. Holding like it means something to her. As if she is remembering something, or someone.

There is a knock at the door.

Abbott enters.

ABBOTT

I suspect that something troubles you, your majesty.

LUANA smiles.

LUANA

Abbott, you're an excellent employee. And a dear friend.

LUANA looks down at the parchments in front of her.

LUANA

Rimal seems very concerned about his scriptures. He's asked me to search for his saviour.

ABBOTT

What will you do?

LUANA

Perhaps when our search is over...

ABBOTT is distracted. Thinking.

LUANA

Abbott, is something wrong?

ABBOTT

I apologise, your majesty.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

Abbott was worried that Luana could be making a grave mistake. He thought that ignoring Rimal was wrong.

INT. FREE SPIRIT - CARGO HOLD - NIGHT

MALKIN and REEGAN sit against the barrels half asleep. The sound of footsteps grows louder. REEGAN stirs from his sleep and looks to the door. He arouses MALKIN.

REEGAN

Somebody's coming.

MALKIN wakes up. The pair move to the back of the room and hide behind some barrels. REEGAN blows out the lamp.

The door of the cargo hold opens. Light from a lamp suddenly spills into the room revealing a SAILOR. The SAILOR enters and picks up a barrel before turning back.

MALKIN knocks the lamp over, breaking the glass shield.

The SAILOR hears the commotion and puts the barrel on the floor.

The SAILOR cautiously walks to the back of the room.

EXT. FREE SPIRIT - DECK - NIGHT

The CAPTAIN stands, smoking a pipe under the moonlit deck, looking out into the darkness of the sea.

SAILOR

(O.S.)

Captain...

The CAPTAIN turns to see the SAILOR holding MALKIN and REEGAN by their collars.

SAILOR

I found these two in the cargo-hold.

CAPTAIN

Bring them into the light.

The SAILOR drags MALKIN and REEGAN under the moonlight by the CAPTAIN. The CAPTAIN gives them a menacing look.

EXT. FREE SPIRIT. DECK. LATER

MALKIN makes no resistance against the bulky CAPTAIN as he is held over the side of the ship by his collar. The SAILOR holds REEGAN.

CAPTAIN
This is what we do with
stowaways.

MALKIN gasps as he is pushed further over the side.

MALKIN
Sharks...

CAPTAIN
Yes. Great-whites with an
acquaintance to human blood.

REEGAN
Let go of him.

REEGAN struggles to free himself, but the SAILOR manages to restrain him.

CAPTAIN
You think I wouldn't hesitate
to through you overboard?

FEMALE VOICE
(V.O. whispering)
Let him go.

The CAPTAIN looks around at the SAILOR. Apparently only the CAPTAIN heard the voice.

CAPTAIN
(to the SAILOR)
Did you hear that?

The SAILOR shakes his head and shrugs.

The CAPTAIN pulls MALKIN back from the side of the ship. Confused, he stares at MALKIN.

The CAPTAIN looks at the SAILOR. A look as if he has seen a ghost. He pauses for a moment with eyes fixed on MALKIN.

CAPTAIN
Find them quarters for the
night. We can get rid of them
when we reach the island.

The SAILOR leads MALKIN and REEGAN away. The CAPTAIN curiously looks on at MALKIN.

EXT. ISLAND - PORT - DAY

MALKIN and REEGAN disembark the ship, which has landed at a port on the island.

A number of houses are scattered around the island. A thick forest lies behind the town covering the lower view of a high mountain, which reaches into the clouds.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

Malkin and Reegan found themselves on an island. They knew nothing of this place, but it was to play a very important role in their lives.

MALKIN and REEGAN follow the path into town.

EXT. ISLAND - DAY

The trail leads MALKIN and REEGAN into to the village. They reach a river running through the houses and carry on walking along the river-bank.

EXT. RIVER-BANK - DAY

MALKIN continue to walk along the river through hearty woodland.

REEGAN

I need a rest. I'm going to sit for a moment.

REEGAN sits down. MALKIN continues to stand.

MALKIN

Where are we? We're in the middle of nowhere.

MALKIN is distracted by something. A faint sound coming through the trees.

MALKIN

What's that?

MALKIN goes to investigate, heading for the thicket.

REEGAN

Don't go wandering off.

EXT. WOODLAND - DAY

The faint sound becomes louder. Singing. A young, beautiful female voice. Almost angelic.

MALKIN peers through some trees. A red-haired girl, MAYDA washes clothes in the river. MALKIN continues to watch, mesmerised.

MALKIN re-adjusts his footing, trying to be as quiet as possible. His foot lands on some twigs, making a crack. The girl is startled. She looks up, scanning in MALKIN's general direction.

GIRL

I know you're there. My
father is coming and he's
built like a boulder.

MALKIN steps out.

MAYDA

I recognise every face on
this island and yours isn't
one of them. Who are you? And
why were you watching me?

MALKIN

You're singing. It's
beautiful.

MAYDA

You must be from the
mainland.

MALKIN

My name's Malkin. My friend
and I are travelling.

MAYDA

Travelling? I expect you've
come to see the mountain.
Well, you can't get up there.
It's guarded.

MALKIN

Mountain?

MAYDA

I'm afraid I have to leave
now. It was very nice to meet
you, Malkin. Goodbye.

The MAYDA gathers her belongings and walks away in to the woodland.

MALKIN continues to stare at the girl for moment as she walks on. She disappears into the trees. MALKIN shakes the daze from his head before heading back to REEGAN.

EXT. ISLAND - DAY

MALKIN and REEGAN amble aimlessly in a remote area by a river. The sun shines above them. They reach a collection of trees.

MALKIN

Well, we don't have any money
to stay anywhere.

REEGAN stops by a tree and sits down. MALKIN does the same.

REEGAN

It's a pleasant evening. We
can sleep under the stars.

EXT. ISLAND - SUNSET

MALKIN and REEGAN continue to sit under the tree by the river. The sun begins to set over the horizon. Stars are becoming visible in the darkening sky, with a number of menacing clouds.

MALKIN

It's getting dark.

REEGAN

Quiet, I can hear something.

REEGAN and MALKIN listen carefully. The sound of the flowing river masks something.

MALKIN

I think it's footsteps.

Indeed, sounds of footsteps on the dirt-trail becomes louder as someone draws closer to them.

A figure, appears from around the bend. The figure is silhouetted apart from the hair.

REEGAN

Someone's coming.

MALKIN

It's okay, it's the singing
girl.

REEGAN

Singing girl?

MAYDA draws closer.

MALKIN steps out from the tree. MAYDA jumps in fright.

MAYDA
You again. Why must you
always surprise me? A hello
would do.

MALKIN
Hello...I'm sorry, I don't even
know your name.

MAYDA
I'm Mayda.

REEGAN appears from behind the tree.

MAYDA
And this must be your friend.

MALKIN
This is Reegan.

Clouds begin to gather above the island. They gather over
the three. MALKIN turns to REEGAN.

MALKIN
So much for the pleasant
evening.

MAYDA places a leather bag over her head as rain begins to
drizzle down from the sky.

MAYDA
Where will you sleep?

MALKIN and REEGAN give each other a bewildered glance.

MAYDA
Though I hardly even know
you, I feel very safe around
you. There is something about
you. Come with me.

MAYDA begins to hurry away. MALKIN and REEGAN follow.

EXT. MAYDA'S HOUSE - EVENING

A white cottage stands close to the island river.

INT. MAYDA'S HOUSE - SAME

MAYDA, MALKIN and REEGAN enter the cottage.

MAYDA

Grandmother? Grandmother, are you awake.

An elderly woman, Mayda's GRANDMOTHER appears from the stairs.

GRANDMOTHER

Did you enjoy you're evening stroll?

Mayda's grandmother is surprised at the sight of MALKIN and REEGAN.

GRANDMOTHER

Oh, It appears you found some friends. I've not seen you two here before.

MAYDA

This is Malkin and Reegan. They'll stay with is for a night or two if that's okay.

GRANDMOTHER

You know you can have friends here any time you want. Though we don't see many new faces. It can be a very lonely place this island.

MAYDA turns to MALKIN and REEGAN.

MAYDA

I'll show you where you can sleep.

EXT. MAYDA'S HOUSE - MORNING

The garden is in an exemplary state. A riverbank separates the garden and the flowing water of the river.

MAYDA lowers a bucket into a well, drawing water and lifting it out.

INT. MAYDA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME

MALKIN and REEGAN lie asleep. MALKIN stirs to the sound of a clatter coming from the garden.

He rises from the bed and walks over to the wooden shutter. He opens it to see MAYDA picking up the pieces of the broken wooden bucket.

EXT. GARDEN - SAME

MAYDA continues to pick up the pieces of the bucket, placing them neatly out of the way.

The rear door of the cottage opens and MALKIN appears.

MALKIN

Let me help you.

MALKIN begins to help MAYDA clearing the wood. MAYDA notices the markings on MALKIN's hand.

MAYDA

How did you get those?

MALKIN

I've had them since I was born. I don't know what they are.

MAYDA holds her hand out to MALKIN.

MAYDA

I have the same markings.

MALKIN and MAYDA give each other a confused glance. They shrug, soon forgetting about it.

MALKIN lowers the bucket into the well and lifts out some water.

MAYDA picks up the other container and places it by the well. MALKIN pours the water into the remaining containers.

MALKIN picks up the container and the pair walk toward the door.

INT. MAYDA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

MALKIN and REEGAN sit at the kitchen table. MAYDA stands by a stove. She carries an urn over to the table and places it on the table.

MAYDA

So what will you do this afternoon?

MALKIN

We have no plans.

MAYDA continues to make tea.

REEGAN

Perhaps you could take us to the mountain.

MAYDA hands a beaker over to MALKIN and REEGAN. She sits down to drink.

MAYDA
I'm afraid not. Nobody is
allowed up there. Not even
the people of this island.

Mayda's elderly grandmother enters the kitchen.

GRANDMOTHER
Oh, you can take them so far.
A little peep won't hurt.
It's a very special place,
you know.

MAYDA
Well, okay, but we mustn't
get too close the fortress.

REEGAN
Fortress?

MAYDA
I'll explain on the way.

MAYDA stands from the table. She knocks over the urn as she rises, spilling the hot water over her hand. She flinches with the pain.

MALKIN
Let me help you.

MALKIN leads MAYDA over to the sink. He pours cold water over it as he gently holds her hand.

MAYDA and MALKIN look at each other. They smile.

MAYDA
We should go now before it
gets too late. You go on
ahead. I'll catch up.

MALKIN and REEGAN leave the room. The sound of the front door rings through to the kitchen.

GRANDMOTHER
You like that boy.

MAYDA
I hardly know him.

GRANDMOTHER
Oh, go and join them. Have
some fun.

MAYDA

But I'll leave you here.
Alone. I'd feel guilty.

GRANDMOTHER

If I've tried to teach you
one thing, it's this. Be true
to yourself and you'll always
be innocent. I won't be here
forever. Then you're the one
who'll be alone.

MAYDA smiles.

EXT. ISLAND - FOREST TRAIL - LATER

The forest extends thickly around the sides of a trail. The trees reach high in sky. The trail is wide with wheel tracks leading further into the forest.

MALKIN, REEGAN and MAYDA walk along the trail.

MALKIN

Have you lived here all of
your life?

MAYDA

My grandmother was born on
this island. She has never
left. I was born on the
mainland.

REEGAN

What happened to your
parents?

MAYDA

My father was killed in the
war. I never knew my mother.
She died when I was young.

The trail ahead leads to an opening in the forest.

MAYDA

We've reached the fortress.
We must be very quiet from
here on.

EXT. FOREST OPENING - DAY

A large fortress blocks the path between the forest and the mountain. The river reaches up past the fortress and up, back into the mountain.

A moat around the fortress blocks the path. Two armed guards stand ready.

MAYDA, MALKIN and REEGAN peer around from the cover of the trees so as not to be seen.

MALKIN

What are they guarding?

MAYDA

Nobody has ever been up there. The patriarch of our faith calls it a shrine.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - SAME

The peak of the mountain pierces the clouds hovering above it. It appears to be an ordinary mountain. But...

A large cavity has been gouged in the side of the mountain. A bench sits in the cavity. A stone archway rises above the bench with the Arthenean symbol carved at the top.

MAYDA

(V.O.)

It was built thousands of years ago. It's supposed to be the place of descent for our saviour into the dark world.

MALKIN

(V.O.)

Saviour?

EXT. FOREST OPENING - SAME

MALKIN, REEGAN and MAYDA continue to look at the fortress.

MAYDA

The one who will banish all evil from this world. Have you learned nothing in school?

MAYDA frowns at MALKIN's ignorance.

MAYDA

We should go now before we're seen. And my grandmother needs me.

INT. MAYDA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Mayda's GRANDMOTHER lays in her bed, apparently sleeping.
The door of the room opens and MAYDA enters.

MAYDA
Grandmother.

Mayda's GRANDMOTHER does not wake up.

MAYDA
Grandmother.

MAYDA drops her head and begins to cry.

INT. PALACE - DAY

LUANA sits in a sofa, relaxing. ABBOTT stands by the door, ready. There is a knock.

LUANA
Let him in.

ABBOTT opens the door, revealing a servant carrying an envelope.

SERVANT
Your majesty. A letter for
you.

The SERVANT hands the envelope to LUANA. She examines the front.

LUANA
This is Rimal's handwriting.

LUANA opens the envelope and removes the letter. She reads it.

She looks at ABBOTT.

LUANA
It is from Rimal. He says
he's agreed to meet me, but I
never responded to him.

ABBOTT
Forgive me your majesty, I
replied to his letter.

LUANA
Tell me, Abbott, what
business did you have
impersonating me?

ABBOTT

I apologise, but I think
ignoring Rimal maybe a
terrible mistake.

LUANA sighs.

LUANA

Perhaps you're right.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

A CLERGYMAN stands at the head of a pit. He wears a long white robe that extends to his feet.

MAYDA, MALKIN and REEGAN and the CLERGYMAN stand round the pit.

MAYDA, crying, kneels down to the coffin.

MAYDA

Goodbye grandmother.

The CLERGYMAN gestures to two MEN in the distance. The two MEN come over the pit and start shovelling earth into it.

MALKIN, MAYDA and REEGAN start to walk away from the grave.

MALKIN

What will you do now?

MAYDA

My uncle. I should visit him.
Though I'm afraid he lives in
Lithe.

MALKIN

We can go with you to Lithe.

MAYDA

But you are one of us.

MALKIN

Mayda, there is something I
should tell you.

EXT. PORT - DAY

The CAPTAIN and the ship rest in the dockyard. The CAPTAIN stands at the top of the gangplank, smoking his pipe.

MALKIN, MAYDA and REEGAN arrive.

MALKIN

Captain, can you take us back
to Lithe?

The CAPTAIN looks intriguingly at MALKIN.

CAPTAIN

You again. I told you...no
passengers.

MAYDA

We can pay. Please, we must
go to Lithe.

The CAPTAIN pauses in thought for a moment. He shakes his
head.

CAPTAIN

Very well. You may travel
with us.

The three head up the gangplank and onto the ship. The
CAPTAIN gives MALKIN the eye as they board. He shrugs.

CAPTAIN

Some mouldy bread perhaps.

The CAPTAIN boards.

EXT. FREE SPIRIT - DECK - DAY

MALKIN, REEGAN and MAYDA stand on the deck of a ship
watching the land they just left become gradually smaller.

MALKIN turns to MAYDA.

MALKIN

Are you looking forward to
seeing your uncle?

MAYDA pulls out an Arthenean necklace from around her neck.
She shows it to MALKIN.

MAYDA

I'm an enemy to your people.

REEGAN

How does your uncle manage to
live in Lithe?

MAYDA

He defected during our wars.
The Lithian generals granted
him immunity for information.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

Malkin and Mayda felt a special bond. Their opposing roots did not matter to them.

The sky above the ship begins to darken as black clouds collect above them. Rain begins to pour down on the deck. There is a large gust of wind and a wave crashes against the ship below the three friends.

MAYDA shelters her face with her hand. She heads below deck. MALKIN and REEGAN follow.

INT. FREE SPIRIT - GALLEY - DUSK.

REEGAN is with a number of SAILORS, talking in the background.

MALKIN and MAYDA sit at their own table. MAYDA stares into nowhere, dreaming.

MALKIN

What are you thinking?

MAYDA

Oh, I was just dreaming. Malkin, do you have any dreams?

MALKIN

Not really, not anymore. I once lived in an orphanage with a cruel guardian. He'd beat us. I used to dream that a giant bird would come and fly me away.

MAYDA

And where would you go?

MALKIN

Anywhere. Away from him. Maybe to my family.

MAYDA

And what happened?

MALKIN

The bird never came, so I stopped dreaming. It seemed like a waste of time.

MAYDA

Where are your family?

MALKIN

I don't know. I never knew them.

MALKIN looks over at REEGAN laughing and joking with the SAILORS.

MAYDA

I see you two get on very well.

MAYDA rests her hands on the table revealing the three markings on her right hand.

MAYDA removes a piece of parchment from her pocket.

MAYDA

This is where my uncle lives. If we get separated you can meet me there.

MALKIN takes the letter and places it in his pocket.

EXT. FREE SPIRIT - DECK - NIGHT

The storm has become more powerful. The wind blows loudly. The rain hits the deck of the ship fiercely.

There are loud claps of thunder and the odd streak of lightning reveals a gloomy sky.

Large swells cover the ship's hull as it rocks violently in the passing waves.

The CAPTAIN and three SAILORS are on deck.

CAPTAIN

Lower the sails. When you finish, follow me below deck.

The SAILORS set about lowering the sails and the CAPTAIN heads below deck.

Suddenly, they are thrown off their feet by the pitching ship.

The sails of the ship are ripped to shreds by the surging wind.

A SAILOR at the wheel is thrown. He slides over the slippery deck into the side of the ship.

The ship's wheel spins erratically. A wave crashes on the deck.

The ship pushes towards a number of large rocks.

INT. FREE SPIRIT - GALLEY - SAME

The ship rocks sporadically from side to side.

MAYDA
(to Reegan)
I'm frightened.

MALKIN
The storm will pass in no
time.

MALKIN puts his arm around MAYDA, who draws herself closer to him.

Suddenly everybody is thrown forwards.

As people try to get to their feet, a SAILOR rushes in from outside.

SAILOR
Captain, we're taking on
water and we are sinking.

CAPTAIN
EVERYBODY, MAN THE LIFEBOATS!
ABANDON SHIP! SPREAD THE
WORD! WE ARE SINKING!

SAILORS race to the upper decks. MAYDA and REEGAN look stunned and confused.

REEGAN and MAYDA wake from their daze. MALKIN grabs MAYDA by the hand.

MALKIN
Reegan, come on.

REEGAN realises the situation and follows up on deck.

EXT. FREE SPIRIT - NIGHT

The CAPTAIN oversees everything as SAILORS struggle aboard lifeboats.

REEGAN, MALKIN and REEGAN appear from below deck and head towards the lifeboats, which are quickly becoming full.

MAYDA
(pointing to a
lifeboat)
Look, there's room in that
one.

The three scramble toward the semi-vacant lifeboat. MALKIN helps MAYDA and REEGAN board lifeboat.

SAILOR

No more in this one. You'll
have to make your way to
another.

MALKIN

I'm not leaving them.

SAILOR

Find another boat!

A large wave crashes over the ship, knocking MALKIN and the
CAPTAIN off their feet.

MAYDA

MALKIN!

MAYDA and REEGAN'S lifeboat is lowered to the sea.

The CAPTAIN manages to get to his feet. He pulls MALKIN up.
The ship is tossed around by the waves. By now all of the
SAILORS have boarded the lifeboats.

There is one lifeboat left, waiting to be lowered.

MALKIN and the CAPTAIN board the lifeboat. The CAPTAIN
takes out a blade and cuts the rope holding the lifeboat to
the ship. The lifeboat drops to the sea creating a large
splash.

EXT. SHORELINE - NIGHT

A group of lifeboats make it to the shore. The rain has
died down. The clouds have gone. The wind is still blowing
wildly. The shore is dark with only the moonlight shining
on it.

MALKIN clambers out of his boat and walks along the shore
scouring each lifeboat that he passes.

MALKIN

Mayda! Mayda, are you there?
Reegan!

SAILORS leap out of their boats pulling them to the shore.

MALKIN clambers out. He runs over to each lifeboat,
frantically look for his friends. He goes to a SAILOR
clambering out of a boat.

MALKIN

Have you seen Mayda? The
girl? Have you seen her?

SAILOR

I've seen no girl.

MALKIN scours the ocean looking for a sign of her. The CAPTAIN spots MALKIN searching the shore.

CAPTAIN
Come with us! You must come
with us!

MALKIN
I can't! I have to wait here
and look for Mayda!

CAPTAIN
You won't find her in this
weather.

MALKIN grabs a vacant rowing boat and drags it back into the water. He manages to board it as it is bullied by the rolling waves.

CAPTAIN
Don't be stupid! You'll
drown!

MALKIN ignores the CAPTAIN's plea and continues to row out to sea. He looks around him. Nothing. He rows again, going further back out to sea. He rows and rows.

TEACHER
(V.O.)
Malkin rowed out into the
raging waters, searching for
his friends. After all, they
were all he had now. He
couldn't let them slip away.

EXT. SHORELINE - DAWN

The sun rises on the horizon. A dense, eerie fog has formed on the coast.

MALKIN lies in the boat asleep. It hits the shoreline with a thud.

MALKIN awakens. Confused, he climbs to his feet and hops out of the boat. Scouring the sea, he searches for MAYDA's boat. Nothing.

Soaked, MALKIN begins his trek to civilization.

EXT. HARBOUR - DAY

MALKIN reaches a busy harbour, packed with ships and SAILORS loading and unloading cargo. MALKIN walks along looking around him. He spots a building with a sign reading 'High-water Shipping'. He heads towards it.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

MALKIN enters the building looking all around him. He notices the CAPTAIN talking to another SAILOR.

MALKIN

Captain...

The CAPTAIN turns to see MALKIN walking toward him. The CAPTAIN looks surprised.

CAPTAIN

You survived? Perhaps you are something out of the ordinary.

MALKIN looks confused, but is more concerned about his missing friends.

MALKIN

My friends? Have they been found?

CAPTAIN

I am afraid not. Some of my men are also missing along with my cargo. We are about to leave on a search.

MALKIN

I'll come with you.

CAPTAIN

We could be searching for many days and we do not have enough provisions for extra hands.

MALKIN

I'll tell your company about you smuggling Arthenean ale.

The CAPTAIN pauses in thought for a moment.

CAPTAIN

Very well. But you must understand there maybe no sign of them.

EXT. SHIP - DAY

Waves roll past the ships hull in the now-calm sea. The ship comes close to a large group of floating barrels along with some wrecked lifeboats.

The CAPTAIN, MALKIN and a group of SAILORS stand looking over the side of the ship.

SAILOR
I see no survivors, sir. But
it seems we have found our
missing cargo.

CAPTAIN
Salvage what you can then we
shall return home.

MALKIN
What about my friends? And
your men?

The CAPTAIN points at the floating wreckage.

CAPTAIN
There are surely no
survivors.
You must accept that your
friends may never be found.

TEACHER
(V.O.)
Malkin found it hard to
believe that his friends were
gone. He didn't know where to
look next. And then he
remembered...

MALKIN takes out the piece of parchment that MAYDA gave him and looks at it. The writing has been faded by the water, but manages to make out the words. He stares across the ocean.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

MALKIN walks into the garden of a house and on up to the front door. He takes a deep breath before knocking on the door. No reply.

The sound of thudding along with panting noises leaks from nearby.

MALKIN walks around the side of the house. The noises grow louder.

MALKIN reaches the back garden of the house. A man, KADEN is training in the garden, kicking and punching bags. He notices MALKIN, but carries on hitting.

After a pause, KADEN stops to address MALKIN.

KADEN

Yes?

MALKIN

It's about Mayda.

INT. LUANA'S PALACE - DAY

LUANA paces up and down in her study.

ABBOTT enters.

ABBOTT

Your majesty...

RIMAL enters cautiously. He removes the red-book from a leather bag he carrying on his shoulder.

RIMAL

You know why I am here. Are you ready to help me?

LUANA gestures RIMAL to sit.

LUANA

I discovered I have a young heir. Finding him has been my top priority.

RIMAL

The situation before us is of grave importance. Luana, what will it take to make my dream survive?

LUANA

A dream? A dream of what?

RIMAL

A better world. A peaceful world. A world without evil.

LUANA

And if it is just a dream?

EXT. HARBOUR - DAY

Two SOLDIERS are pasting pictures of Malkin around the harbour. The CAPTAIN is wandering around, checking things over. He sees the picture of Malkin.

CAPTAIN

You're looking for this boy?

SOLDIER 1
Have you seen him?

CAPTAIN
Yes. He accompanied me on a
number of my voyages.

SOLDIER 1
Do you know where he is now?

CAPTAIN
No but, he left this.

The CAPTAIN reaches into his pocket and pulls out the tatty
piece of parchment. The CAPTAIN hands it to SOLDIER 1.

CAPTAIN
He's not in trouble is he?

SOLDIER 1
Not trouble. And if he
returns you will send him to
us?

The CAPTAIN is puzzled.

INT. KADEN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

MALKIN sits on an old, worn sofa. KADEN, standing, walks
over to the mantelpiece picks up a bottle of liquor.

KADEN pours himself a drink. He closes his eyes, thinking.
He turns and offers the bottle to MALKIN. MALKIN declines.

KADEN
So, what business did you, a
Lithian, have in an Arthenean
island?

MALKIN
We ended up there by
accident. I made it back, but
the others didn't.

KADEN
When Mayda arrives here, I'll
send word to you.

MALKIN
Oh, I have no where to go
now.

KADEN pauses in thought for a moment.

KADEN

You say you're a friend of
Mayda's?

MALKIN

Yes.

KADEN

Then you may stay here until
she arrives. It should only
be a few days.

EXT. KADEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

MALKIN sits anxiously in the living room. KADEN is with
him.

MALKIN

It's been more than a week
and nothing. Shouldn't we
look for them.

KADEN

It's pointless. They could be
anywhere. And that's if they
survived.

MALKIN

I know they're alive. I know
it.

KADEN sighs and stands.

KADEN

Why don't you come with me
tomorrow. It's better than
staying here all day.

EXT. TRAINING CAMP - DAY.

MALKIN and KADEN enter a training camp. There are two
wooden huts and a larger building surrounding a field.

In the middle of the field, young RECRUITS are fighting
each other. An OFFICER walks amongst them, observing the
action.

MALKIN and KADEN stand by the fence surrounding the field.

KADEN

This is where I train
recruits. You could enrol.

MALKIN and KADEN carry on walking. MALKIN looks on at the
recruits.

KADEN

There is somebody I'd like
you to meet.

KADEN heads toward one of the wooden huts. MALKIN follows.

INT. TRAINING CAMP - HUT - DAY

The hut contains a vast number of weapons. Crossbows line shelves, swords stand in a rack, bows and arrows hang on the walls. A workbench sits at the back of the room and behind it there is a doorway.

KADEN

Gyan?

GYAN

(O. S.)

I hear you.

After a moment, GYAN, a little older than MALKIN, appears from the doorway carrying a bow.

KADEN

Malkin, meet Gyan. He
produces weapons for our
recruits.

GYAN

I've been shaping this bow.
It's made from the finest ash
on these lands.

GYAN offers MALKIN the bow. MALKIN accepts. He lifts it up and down, checking its weight.

KADEN

If you decide to enrol at the
camp you'll be using his
weapons.

EXT. KADEN'S HOUSE - DAY

The two SOLDIERS reach Kaden's house. They knock at the door. No answer. They peer into the windows. Nothing.

Kaden's NEIGHBOUR is working on his house.

NEIGHBOUR

You're looking for Kaden?

SOLDIER 1

Yes. Do you know where we can
find him?

NEIGHBOUR

He'll be at the training
camp.

SOLDIER 2

Was he with anyone?

NEIGHBOUR

Yes. Yes, he was. I can only
assume he signed up at the
camp. They're probably there
now.

INT. TRAINING CAMP - OFFICE - DAY

The office is large and befitting of a high-ranking army officer. Two doors split the walls - one opposite a desk and one to the side of the desk. The walls of the office bare several paintings of uniformed-officers.

GANTON, a short, middle-aged, plump man sits making notes in front of an ornate wooden desk.

There is a knock at the door.

GANTON

COME IN!

KADEN enters closely followed by MALKIN.

GANTON

Ah, I've been waiting for
you. We need to do something
about the lack of recruits.

KADEN

Yes, sir. In fact, I may have
one here.

GANTON

(to Malkin)

You want to enrol here?

MALKIN

I'm not sure, really. It's
too soon after...

GANTON

We have recently increased a
soldier's salary.

GANTON pushes a book toward MALKIN.

GANTON

If you are interested then
sign here. But, please do not
waste my time.

MALKIN looks at the book. He pauses to think for a moment.

KADEN hands him a quill. MALKIN signs his name.

INT. KADEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

MALKIN pours himself a drink.

A gust of wind blows through the window. MALKIN looks
around to see the curtain blowing in the wind. He turns
back to his drink and takes a sip.

Another, longer gust of wind. MALKIN takes another
mouthful.

A dark spirit enters while MALKIN's back is turned. It
shoots into MALKIN's body.

MALKIN is startled at the strange feeling. He shivers with
the cold and turns to close the window.

Back at the table, MALKIN picks up his drink and looks at
it.

MALKIN pours the drink down his throat. The glass slips
from his hand and drops, shattering on the hard floor.

MALKIN collapses on his bed. He drifts off to sleep.

INT. LUANA'S PALACE. DAY

RIMAL and LUANA sit on a sofa, talking.

ABBOTT enters the room.

LUANA

I assume you have important
news for me.

ABBOTT

We believe we have found
Malkin. Somebody with his
name as signed up at a
training camp.

LUANA stands.

LUANA

We must go there immediately.

RIMAL

But, what about our problem?
There are things we should
discuss.

LUANA

You may come with us. We can
talk on the way.

INT. CARRIAGE - DAY

LUANA and RIMAL say little to each other as the carriage
takes them to their destination.

Suddenly, the horses pulling the carriage are spooked by
something. They jerk the carriage to-and-fro. The HORSEMAN
manages to control them.

LUANA is uneasy.

RIMAL removes a metallic Arthenean symbol from his pocket.

RIMAL

Perhaps you should wear this.
I fear dark spirits are
close-by.

LUANA

Would the spirits do that to
the horses?

RIMAL

Indeed. Animals can sense
them.

LUANA closes her eyes.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A young LUANA leads a horse being ridden by her husband,
AULAN. They pass through beautiful countryside as they
enjoy each others company.

The wind gusts. The horse is spooked and leaps into the
air. AULAN is thrown to the ground and the horse barges
into LUANA. She buckles with pain.

INT. CARRIAGE - DAY

A concerned LUANA clasps the metallic symbol tightly in her
hand.

INT. KADEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

MALKIN tosses and turns asleep in his bed. He is startled and awakens. Eyes half-closed, he sits up. He looks at the broken glass on the floor.

DEVIL
(V.O.)
Die...Die...Die...

MALKIN picks up a piece of glass from the floor. He looks at it.

DEVIL
(V.O.)
Die...Die...Die...

MALKIN clasps the glass in his hands as he stretches his arms in front of his stomach.

DEVIL
Die!

MALKIN squeezes his eyes shut and screams.

The dark spirit that entered MALKIN'S body shoots out and races to the window sill.

MALKIN sees the spirit sitting there. It stares at MALKIN with its piercing white eyes occasionally blinking.

MALKIN looks back.

After a moment, MALKIN reaches out to touch the spirit. The spirit hisses and darts out of the window.

MALKIN shivers, staring at the window. He begins to shake and drops the piece of glass. He looks at the long streak of red on his palm.

INT. TRAINING CAMP - OFFICE - EVENING

MALKIN and KADEN enter the office. GANTON sits at his desk. ABBOTT stands beside him. The room to the neighbouring door is closed.

GANTON
I believe this is the person
you are looking for.

A murmur of voices can be heard coming from the room next door. MALKIN looks around him.

ABBOTT
Malkin? Malkin, there is
somebody here to see you.

MALKIN looks confused. ABBOTT turns to the side door. It opens. LUANA steps out. She walks slowly toward MALKIN.

MALKIN is still confused.

LUANA
You resemble him.

LUANA turns to the door again. MANDEL steps out.

MANDEL
Yes, this is Malkin.

MALKIN is startled at the presence of MANDEL.

MALKIN
What are you doing here?

MANDEL
I'm here to identify you. Got yourself in trouble again no doubt.

MALKIN turns to ABBOTT.

LUANA
You're not in trouble.

ABBOTT
Malkin, you belong to the royal family. You are the queen's cousin's grandson.

MANDEL
What?

MANDEL is ignored. ABBOTT pulls a chair against the wall.

ABBOTT
Sit for a moment. This must be a shock to you.

MALKIN sits in the chair and lets out a sigh of relief before resting his head in his hands.

GANTON
I shall leave you now.

GANTON leaves the room by the main door.

INT. PALACE - EVENING

OKEN sits in his study. RIVENSTONE barges in.

RIVENSTONE

Sir, I've heard that Rimal has gone to Lithe to find his hero. We could be attacked at any time.

OKEN

I suspect that they will not use force. Rimal will see to that.

RIVENSTONE

Then what are we to do?

OKEN

The island. If Rimal finds his supposed saviour, they will go there.

INT. TRAINING CAMP - OFFICE - EVENING

MALKIN sits still in the chair. ABBOTT, KADEN and MANDEL stand around him.

MALKIN looks up.

MALKIN

So you're saying I have a grandfather? Alive? Here in Lithe?

ABBOTT

Your grandfather is alive, but he is very sick.

MALKIN

Why did he not find me sooner?

LUANA

He was protecting you.

MALKIN looks over and stares.

ABBOTT

There is a great deal of explaining to do, but it isn't safe for you or her majesty to stay here. We must leave.

ABBOTT gestures to MALKIN to walk through door.

MANDEL begins to mellow.

MANDEL

How do you know that he his related to Queen Luana?

ABBOTT

He is a Catcher.

MANDEL

A Catcher?

ABBOTT

Members of the royal family are known as Catchers. They take can take some of the abilities of living things.

MANDEL

A myth.

LUANA

It is the truth.

LUANA steps closer to MALKIN.

RIMAL

Luana, we should leave now.

LUANA offers a loving hand to MALKIN. MALKIN reaches out and clasps it. The markings on MALKIN's hand are revealed to RIMAL.

RIMAL takes in a sharp breath.

INT. CARRIAGE - SAME

RIVENSTONE and OKEN are both now dressed in military uniform. They sit opposite each other.

OKEN

What if Rimal is right? What if a day of reckoning is on its way?

RIVENSTONE

I don't believe it. Remember what the scriptures say. Not one would descend. Not one.

OKEN stares out of the window, pondering.

INT. TRIANING CAMP - OFFICE - LATER

RIMAL walks over to MALKIN and examines the markings closely.

RIMAL
Luana, the markings...

LUANA
What are you saying?

MALKIN and LUANA look confused.

RIMAL
Luana, could he be...?

LUANA
...The saviour?

RIMAL
My friend, have you ever had
any peculiar dreams?

MALKIN
Well, one I have most is of a
desolate world.

RIMAL
And what exists there?

MALKIN
Nothing. Just a mountain.

RIMAL becomes excited.

RIMAL
Any other dreams?

MALKIN
In another I see three
glowing orbs of blinding
white light. They rise up and
swirl around each other. Then
they disappear.

RIMAL
Have you any idea what it
means?

MALKIN
None.

RIMAL
Luana, I believe that your
heir and the young man I am
looking for may well be one
and the same.

MALKIN

But I'm not the only one who has these markings. Mayda...the girl I was with. She has them too.

RIMAL is puzzled.

RIMAL

Blasted riddles! Time is running out and now I'm even more confused.

ABBOTT looks away, toying with something in his mind.

INT. ORPHANAGE - NIGHT

MARIAN sits on her bed. The wind blows through the window, ruffling the tatty curtains. MARIAN stands and goes to the window. She peers out of it.

MARIAN

Malkin, where are you? I hope you're alright.

INT. TRAINING CAMP - OFFICE - NIGHT

RIMAL is pacing up and down. LUANA stands over MALKIN. ABBOTT stands next to LUANA.

ABBOTT

Your majesty, do you expect that the sighting made all those years ago could be relevant now?

LUANA

I don't know. A coincidence?

RIMAL

Sighting? What kind of sighting?

LUANA

It seemed unimportant at the time.

RIMAL

This is serious. Luana, we must go somewhere safe.

LUANA

We can go to my palace.

MANDEL

I won't allow this.

MANDEL wrestles a blade from the BODYGUARD. He grabs MALKIN and holds it to MALKIN's throat.

RIMAL

Wait!

LUANA

If you harm him...

MANDEL pauses for a moment. He begins to shake. He runs out of the building into the night.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

MALKIN awakens to see giant wooden beams spanning across a ceiling. Sitting up, he sees ABBOTT sitting by the bed.

RIMAL enters the room. ABBOTT stands and RIMAL sits in the chair.

RIMAL

Do you remember what we discussed last night?

MALKIN

I remember, but I'm not sure...

RIMAL

That's why I brought this.

RIMAL removes the red book from a worn, leather bag. He opens it and places it in front of MALKIN.

MALKIN carefully turns the pages and holds to read a paragraph.

MALKIN

So you think I am this person? The one to save humanity?

RIMAL

I don't doubt it.

MALKIN

And what is it I have to do?

RIMAL

You must destroy the beasts of hell.

MALKIN

But I'm not a fighter. I just
wanted to find love. And I
did, but now she's gone.

MALKIN turns the page to reveal the sketch of the Arthenean
symbol.

RIMAL

Have you ever encountered
this in your dreams?

MALKIN

Never. Does this not tell
you?

RIMAL

I'm afraid it is much a
mystery to us as it was to
the prophets all those years
ago.

RIMAL points to the swirling orbs.

RIMAL

...and what about these?

MALKIN turns his head and stares into space.

INT. HEAVEN. (FLASHBACK)

The three blue glowing orbs rise up, swirling around each
other over a black void.

A white hand reaches out.

The orbs stop swirling and shoot onto the back of the hand.

EXT. MARKETPLACE. DAY (FLASHBACK)

The purple-robed market vendor stands in front of MALKIN.

VENDOR

It's a timepiece.

The pendulum of the time-piece rotates to-and-fro.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

MALKIN sits in his bed, staring. RIMAL still sits, taking
in MALKIN's words.

MALKIN

A timepiece. It's a
timepiece.

RIMAL

Are you sure?

MALKIN

Yes. The man in the purple
robe. He was there. There in
the marketplace.

RIMAL

A purple robe? It was him.
There has always been talk of
that man bringing that book
to us all those years ago.

MALKIN

Then he must be thousands of
years old.

RIMAL

The Lord can give great
power. Just like he gave to
your family. Now, a time-
piece, but a time-piece for
what?

MALKIN

I don't know.

MALKIN flicks through the page before landing on the final
page.

MALKIN

Why is there nothing written
here?

RIMAL

Like everything else in this
book. It is a complete
mystery.

After a moment, LUANA enters the room. MALKIN becomes
anxious.

LUANA

Don't be frightened. Has
Rimal told you of his quest?

MALKIN

Yes. But I'm not sure...the
spirits, they frighten me.

RIMAL

Spirits? You have seen a dark spirit?

MALKIN

It took hold of me. But I fought it.

RIMAL

The one with the will to ward-off the darkness. It is you. Malkin, you are our saviour. I'm certain you will succeed.

LUANA

Dark spirits? They must be removed. Quickly.

MALKIN

But I'm not the only one with the markings, remember? But she is gone.

RIMAL turns to the doorway.

RIMAL

You can come in now.

MAYDA and REEGAN enter cautiously. MAYDA walks over to MALKIN and puts her arms around him.

RIMAL stares into space.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

The tests had begun. They began with a test for Malkin. A test of faith. And a test of strength.

INT. PALACE - NIGHT.

LUANA sits in a large armchair drinking a goblet of wine.

ABBOTT enters.

ABBOTT

Your majesty...

MALKIN appears at the doorway and cautiously walks toward LUANA.

LUANA

Thank you, Abbott.

ABBOTT leaves the room.

MALKIN sits down on the lavish red sofa next to LUANA.

MALKIN

I'm not sure what to do. It's all very sudden. I haven't prepared.

LUANA

If you like you can prepare at Durkenham castle. This requires discretion. Providing men will only draw attention. Do you know of anyone that can help you?

MALKIN

My friends? Could they help?

LUANA

It seems wise. We need people whom we can trust.

MALKIN

Can I see my grandfather now?

LUANA

Not tonight. He needs to rest. You may see him in the morning. But then you must leave immediately for the castle.

INT. PALACE - LATER

MAYDA sits in a chair, deep in thought. RIMAL enters, slowly walking towards MAYDA.

LUANA

You must be Mayda.

MAYDA nods.

RIMAL

May I see?

MAYDA holds her arm out, revealing the markings on the back of her hand.

RIMAL

It makes no sense...
Do you have dreams?

MAYDA

None.

RIMAL becomes confused.

RIMAL
Then what is your purpose in
all of this?

MAYDA
I don't know. But I love
Malkin. So I'm prepared to
help him.

RIMAL lets out a sigh of relief.

INT. PALACE - LATER

RIMAL, LUANA and MALKIN enter a room, rather like a church.
They walk over to an alter with bottles of clear liquid and
a decorative stone-bowl.

LUANA
(to Rimal)
You know what to do.

RIMAL picks up a bottle of the liquid and pours it into the
dish.

RIMAL
Malkin...your hands.

MALKIN
What's this?

LUANA
It's quite alright. Rimal has
performed this rite for me
several times.

MALKIN
You've met before?

LUANA
Malkin, do as Rimal says.

MALKIN cautiously places his hands in the bowl.

The sheen on MALKIN's eyes begins to cloud.

RIMAL
Stare directly into the
water.

MALKIN does so. Long streams of mist pour out of MALKIN's
eyes into the bowl. After a moment it stops. MALKIN blinks.

LUANA
Quite a collection.

MALKIN

A falcon and a horse.

LUANA

And perhaps more.

RIMAL removes a vial from his pocket. Picking up the bowl, he pours the now-misty liquid into it.

LUANA

Malkin, you may leave us now.

MALKIN leaves.

RIMAL

I'll make sure these spirits never bother him again.

LUANA

I'll take care of it.

RIMAL, confused, passes the vial to LUANA, who places it in her pocket.

LUANA

Do you think he will succeed.

RIMAL

Luana, there is something truly special about that child. Perhaps my dream will survive after all.

LUANA smiles. They walk toward the door.

INT. PALACE - BEDROOM - MORNING

NYAN lies in a bed. He is being tended to by some NURSES.

LUANA slowly enters the room, closely followed by MALKIN.

LUANA walks over to NYAN.

LUANA

Nyan, there is somebody here to see you.

NYAN stirs from his sleep. Opening his eyes, he looks over at MALKIN.

NYAN

Don't be frightened.

MALKIN walks slowly over to the bedside.

NYAN

You must be Malkin. Do you know who I am?

NYAN places a comforting hand on MALKIN's shoulder.

MALKIN

Where have you been all these years? And my mother? My father?

NYAN

I understand that you have many questions. But Luana tells me there are interesting times ahead for you.

LUANA

He bears the markings. And he sees the other world.

MALKIN

But I'm not sure if I can do it.

NYAN

Perhaps you'd like to hear about your past. Luana that might help him.

LUANA

Very well. We will leave you be. But we don't have long.

LUANA gestures to the NURSES to leave the room. LUANA also leaves, closing the door behind her.

INT. DURKENHAM CASTLE - DUSK

The castle is huge. A large patch of lawn covers the large courtyard. There are many doorways leading into the castle confines.

INT. DURKENHAM CASTLE - LIVING QUARTERS - NIGHT

MALKIN and MAYDA sit on a sofa in front of a blazing fire. Only a few oil-burners light the room dimly. MAYDA draws closer to MALKIN.

MAYDA

All of this frightens me a little.

MALKIN

And me. But we have the best support.

MAYDA

Maybe we'll feel better when the others arrive tomorrow.

MALKIN

Well, if we make it through this, our lives will be so much better. We will be taken care of, and we'll be together.

MALKIN places his arm around MAYDA, who comforts herself in his warmth.

MALKIN

We should get an early night. There is a lot to do tomorrow.

MAYDA leans towards MALKIN. She kisses him on the lips. MALKIN embraces her for a moment.

MALKIN stands and takes MAYDA by the hand. They head out of the room.

INT. CASTLE DURKENHAM - COURTYARD - DAY

Sunlight pierces a scattering of white cloud in the sky. The castle bares an eerie quietness.

KADEN, GYAN, and REEGAN stand side-by-side. MALKIN stands opposite them, MAYDA by his side.

MALKIN

Are you all sure about this?

REEGAN

We're with you all the way, Malkin.

MAYDA looks up at MALKIN.

MAYDA

How will they all help us?

MALKIN

Reegan, can you farm for us? We'll need plenty of food to build up our strength.

REEGAN steps forward.

REEGAN

I will. And I promise you a mass of crops.

MALKIN

Gyan, I will need weapons to train with.

GYAN steps forward.

GYAN

My friend, I will produce the very best equipment.

MALKIN

No doubt there are tough battles ahead for me. Kaden, can you help me?

KADEN steps forward.

KADEN

By the time our journey begins, you will be able to conquer ten-thousand men.

MAYDA

And I'll be here for you when times get hard.

EXT. CASTLE DURKENHAM - COURTYARD - DAY

MALKIN, MAYDA, LUANA and RIMAL walk towards LUANA's awaiting carriage. ABBOTT is standing by it.

They stop. LUANA turns to MALKIN.

LUANA

Rimal and I will leave you now. You will not see or hear from us again until it is time for you to leave.

LUANA pauses. She hugs MALKIN. She steps back.

RIMAL

Are you sure you will be ready in time?

MALKIN

I'll try. I promise.

RIMAL shakes MALKIN's hand. He turns to MAYDA.

RIMAL

My dear, are you prepared for
what lies ahead.

MAYDA nods. RIMAL kisses her on the cheek. MAYDA is
obviously uncomfortable about something.

LUANA begins to walk away, visibly upset. RIMAL follows.

MAYDA

Wait.

LUANA and RIMAL stop and turn around to MAYDA, as does
MALKIN.

MAYDA

There is something I should
tell you.

MAYDA begins to cry.

MALKIN

Mayda?

MALKIN comforts MAYDA. LUANA and RIMAL step forward.

MAYDA

I'm sorry.

RIMAL

Do you feel you can't go
through with this?

MAYDA

It's not that. I'm afraid I'm
pregnant.

EXT. CASTLE DURKENAHM. COURTYARD. DAY

MAYDA and MALKIN head back into the castle confines.

LUANA and RIMAL reach the carriage with ABBOTT still
standing by. LUANA smiles at ABBOTT. ABBOTT is confused.

LUANA

I'll tell you on the way
home.

LUANA climbs into the carriage, followed by RIMAL and
ABBOTT.

EXT. CASTLE DURKENHAM - DAY

Luana's carriage pulls out of the castle confinements. It
slowly passes along the road as it heads for home.

TEACHER

(V.O.)

A second test had begun. It was a test of friendship. A test of loyalty. Should they fail now, their story would never be told.

MONTAGE:

The sun shines in a blue sky over the castle.

MALKIN punches and kicks sacks held by KADEN. MALKIN stumbles.

REEGAN ploughs a field.

MAYDA talks with MALKIN.

GYAN hammers a sword.

REEGAN sows seeds in the castle grounds.

KADEN fights MALKIN. MALKIN's hair has grown down to his neck.

Rain falls over the farmed castle grounds.

GYAN makes a bow.

REEGAN picks crops.

MALKIN looks exhausted as he fights KADEN.

MAYDA nurses MALKIN's wounds.

MALKIN battles KADEN with a sword.

MALKIN running around the castle grounds. His hair is shoulder-length.

MALKIN fires arrows toward a target.

Snow falls over the castle.

EXT. DURKENHAM CASTLE - DAY

The gates of the castle rise up to reveal Luana's carriage as it enters the castle confines.

MALKIN, MAYDA, KADEN, REEGAN and GYAN stand in the centre of the grounds as the carriage pulls up to them.

EXT. DURKENHAM CASTLE - LATER

LUANA, RIMAL, ABBOTT and a NURSE have now dismounted the carriage and stand opposite MALKIN, MAYDA - cradling her newborn BABY, KADEN, REEGAN and GYAN.

LUANA and MALKIN step closer to each other. LUANA runs her hand down MALKIN's hair. She smiles.

LUANA

I haven't known you for so long, but I've missed you dearly.

LUANA turns to MAYDA and the BABY.

LUANA

He's very beautiful. My nurses treated you both well, I hope.

MAYDA looks down at the BABY.

MAYDA

I don't want to leave him alone.

LUANA places a comforting hand on MAYDA's shoulder.

LUANA

He will be well looked after while we are away.

LUANA

Have you thought of a name?

MAYDA

We named him Aulan, after your husband.

LUANA smiles.

A tearful MAYDA passes the BABY over to the NURSE.

RIMAL

Are you all prepared?

MALKIN

We have to be. There is no more time.

LUANA

Then we should leave. The fleet is awaiting you. Abbott...

ABBOTT steps forward passing the leather bag to LUANA.
LUANA opens it up and removes the folded up cloak.

LUANA
I thought this might be
useful to you.

LUANA hands the cloak to MALKIN. MALKIN unfolds it.

LUANA
It was Aulan's. It will keep
you warm on the journey
ahead.

MALKIN wraps the cloak around himself.

EXT. PORT - DAY

The fleet is ready and waiting to advance.

MALKIN, MAYDA, GYAN, REEGAN, LUANA, ABBOTT, RIMAL and KADEN
have dismounted from the carriage.

MALKIN
Why all the ships?

LUANA
We are about to enter
Arthenean waters.

KADEN
Fighting is the last thing we
need.

MALKIN
Kaden is right.

LUANA
But what about those months
of training.

MALKIN
That training was to deal
with the beasts that lie in
the underworld.

RIMAL
You're time at the castle has
bode you well. Luana, we
should listen to Malkin.

MAYDA
We can travel in that.

MAYDA points to a rickety old fishing boat.

LUANA closes her eyes for a moment.

LUANA
Very well. But I hope you're
right.

MALKIN turns to ABBOTT.

MALKIN
Abbott, while we're away can
you do something for me?

LUANA
Abbott will be with me.

MALKIN
Not this time. He won't be
needed on our journey. And I
need him to do something here
for me.

LUANA
Abbott has been by my side
since the start of my reign.

ABBOTT
Your majesty, if I may say
so, please have faith in
Malkin.

MALKIN turns to ABBOTT.

MALKIN
Abbott, I have a friend.
She'll be wondering where I
am.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY

The small fishing vessel rolls and pitches in the passing
waves. LUANA stands on deck. She is no longer wearing her
elaborate clothing, but a simple, peasant-like garment.

MAYDA and MALKIN appear from the cabin.

LUANA
It is not befitting of a
queen to be away from her
country like this.

MAYDA
It won't be for long.

The wind blows waves over the deck of the boat.

LUANA

I'm going below deck.

KADEN passes LUANA as she heads below deck. KADEN looks out to sea with MALKIN and MAYDA. MALKIN places a comforting arm around MAYDA.

MALKIN

What do you think our chances are?

KADEN

Honestly? Not great.

MAYDA

Have faith, you two. I do.

KADEN

Let's join the others. It's getting cold. We will need all our strength.

MALKIN

You go. I'd like some time alone.

KADEN and MAYDA go below deck.

MALKIN sits down, still staring out at the sea. He takes a deep breath and closes his eyes.

EXT. MOUNT OLO - DAY (DREAM)

MALKIN opens his eyes. He stands on top of a mountain. The sky is dark and grey. The land is barren and desolate.

MALKIN looks down to see a castle as dark and eerie as the surroundings.

There is a loud and piercing shriek coming from the bottom of the mountain. MALKIN turns.

MAYDA

(V.O.)

Malkin. Malkin, wake up.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY

LUANA, MAYDA, GYAN, REEGAN and KADEN are now on deck looking at the distant island. The mountain stands high in the sky. The peak piercing the clouds.

MAYDA is trying to arouse MALKIN. MALKIN re-opens his eyes.

MAYDA

Malkin, look. We're almost there.

MALKIN stands up and looks at the island in the distance. He turns to MAYDA.

MALKIN

Are you looking forward to seeing your home again?

MAYDA

Perhaps. If things weren't as they are.

LUANA

No doubt they are expecting us. How will we get to the mountain?

KADEN

Our cargo will help us.

EXT. HARBOUR - DAY

GYAN sits ready at the reigns of a horse-drawn cart. REEGAN climbs ashore carefully looking around him.

KADEN

Everybody on the cart before the harbourmaster returns.

LUANA

Whatever have I got myself into?

KADEN

Quickly.

LUANA looks behind her at the village. She carefully climbs onto the cart. The rest follow.

KADEN piles crates of fish around the group before covering them with the tarpaulin.

EXT. FORTRESS - DAY

The cart, with REEGAN and GYAN at the reigns, pulls up to the gates of the fortress. Two GUARDS stand ready.

GUARD 1

State your business.

REEGAN

We're traders. We've come to deliver supplies.

GUARD 1

You're late.

REEGAN

We had a poor catch this morning. It took us longer than expected.

GUARD 1

I don't recognise you. You're not the usual trader.

REEGAN

My colleague is ill. He asked me to replace him at short notice.

GUARD 1 lifts up the tarpaulin a little at the back of the cart. He peers into a crate, which is filled with fish. He pauses, looking into it.

GUARD 1

Very well. You may pass.

GUARD 2 looks up toward the lookout post above the fortress. He nods to GUARD 3 who is looking down.

GUARD 2

(down at the
fortress
interior)

GATE!

The gates of the fortress creak open.

GYAN orders the horses onward. The cart enters the fortress and the gates creak closed behind it.

INT. FORTRESS - DAY

The fortress is the size of a small village. Large archways reach over pathways, leading from spacey courtyards.

A GUARD stands by the fortress gates in the interior.

Two pathways lead to entrances to buildings. GYAN takes the left-hand path.

KADEN courses the horse-drawn cart up the path to the main building. A cart hops as one of its wheels rides over a pot-hole. A crate falls from the cart.

GUARD

Stop!

The GUARD pulls back the tarpaulin at the front of the cart. MALKIN, KADEN, MAYDA, LUANA and RIMAL are revealed.

The GUARD cries for assistance.

Tens of SOLDIERS pile out of buildings with swords and crossbows drawn. The cart is quickly surrounded. RIVENSTONE appears from the main tower and walks over to it.

RIVENSTONE

Rimal. You have come back to us. (to soldiers) Take Rimal to Emperor Oken and see that the others are locked in the dungeon.

INT. FORTRESS - DUNGEON - NIGHT

KADEN, MALKIN, MAYDA, REEGAN, GYAN and LUANA are in the same dungeon, locked behind iron bars. The sound of dripping water can be heard over the deathly silent prisoners in the cramped cell.

A GUARD sits in a chair in a corner outside the cell. A lamp on the table beside him makes his vicinity glow a pale orange.

Further along the corridor some steps wind upwards. Light creeps in from the upper area into the dark and dismal dungeon.

LUANA

When my people realise where I am, there will be an uprising. Our heritage will be lost. And all for what? To end up locked in here?

KADEN

Oh, be quiet.

LUANA is bemused.

LUANA

(to Kaden)

I blame you for this. Had we have brought the fleet...

MALKIN

Pointing the finger won't help us.

LUANA

Then perhaps this will...

LUANA walks over to the cell door and grips the iron bars.

LUANA
 GUARD! GUARD! I want to see
 Emperor Oken.

The GUARD stands and walks over to the cell.

GUARD 1
 And why would that be?

LUANA
 Because I am Luana. Queen
 Luana of the Lithian people.

INT. FORTRESS - TOWER - NIGHT

The window of the tower provides an overview of the fortress confines. The light of torches shines in from the darkness of the outside.

OKEN sits on a chair behind a table reading by a gas lamp.

RIVENSTONE enters.

RIVENSTONE
 Sir, I have a gift for you.
 (to the door) Bring in the
 prisoner.

A SOLDIER enters holding RIMAL by the arm.

OKEN
 Ah, Rimal. Do sit down.

RIMAL reluctantly sits down in front of OKEN.

RIVENSTONE leaves the room.

OKEN
 So tell me, why did you
 defect?

RIMAL
 I had no choice. You do not
 believe the scriptures.

OKEN
 Why do you still chase this
 belief of yours?

RIMAL
 Queen Luana found an heir
 amongst her people. He bares
 the markings that the
 prophets wrote about.

OKEN
Luana has an heir?

RIMAL
There is no time for an
explanation. I beg of you,
please believe my words
before it is too late.

RIVENSTONE bursts in to the room.

OKEN
What news could be so
important that you burst in
here like this?

RIVENSTONE
Sir, I apologise, but I have
great news.

INT. FORTRESS - DUNGEON - NIGHT

RIVENSTONE races down the steps to the dungeon, pushing and
shoving RIMAL in front of him. OKEN is close behind.

ABBOTT, GYAN, REEGAN, MALKIN and MAYDA sit side by side on
the bench. LUANA paces up and down the cell. KADEN stands
leaning against the wall.

OKEN and RIMAL stand in front of the dungeon cell. A
BODYGUARD stands armed with a crossbow beside them.

OKEN
Queen Luana of the Lithians.

RIVENSTONE pushes RIMAL into the dungeon before leaving.

OKEN
So...Luana. We meet at last.
(to Kaden) And you, you have
done well.

KADEN steps forward and leaves the cell. MAYDA turns her
head to KADEN.

MAYDA
Uncle?

KADEN
I'm sorry Mayda. But all of
this is ridiculous.

LUANA is shocked.

LUANA

You're a spy? Living on my lands? That's why you didn't want my fleet.

MAYDA

How could you?

KADEN

Mayda, you seriously don't believe any of this, do you?

MAYDA

After all we've seen.

KADEN

The Lithian armies killed my brother. Your father.

MAYDA

(shaking her head)

After all that is happening. Happening right now.

REEGAN

Kaden, you helped Malkin. You trained him. Why turn against us now?

KADEN

I was leading you to this. I knew you'd come here. Now I can get back to normality on this island. My home. Our home. Mayda, you can come back with me.

MAYDA

Never.

OKEN

I'm tired of all this. You either leave now or you stay here for the rest of your days.

MAYDA steps forward, holding out her arm.

MAYDA

Uncle, look. I have the markings.

KADEN

I'm sorry, Mayda. I don't believe it.

MAYDA takes MALKIN's hand and raises it to OKEN.

MAYDA
Here, he has them too.

OKEN
Painted on no doubt. And what
about the scriptures?
Remember what they say - not
one would descend to save
humanity from the great and
terrible day..

MAYDA pauses for a moment, thinking about something.

MAYDA
Of course. That's what it
means...not one...two. There are
two of us.

The sound of dripping water encompasses silence once more.

OKEN and KADEN pause, they give each other a puzzling
glance.

OKEN
Could it be?

LUANA
Now will you believe us? Do
you really think I'd come
here and risk everything?

OKEN stands, still thinking.

INT. ORPHANAGE - NIGHT

MARIAN sits by a gas light, reading a book. There is a
knock at the front door. She peers out of the window. Two
MEN stand by the door both holding a large parcel. The
darkness hides their faces. A large carriage stands on the
road with two more MEN at the reigns of the horses.

MARIAN goes to answer the call.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - SAME

The door of the orphanage slowly opens a crack. MARIAN's
face appears cautiously. The two men are standing close-by.
The two men are revealed to be ABBOTT and a BODYGUARD.

ABBOTT
My dear child, is your name
Marian?

MARIAN

Yes.

ABBOTT

May I come in?

MARIAN

I don't know.

MARIAN hesitates.

ABBOTT

It's quite alright. I'm a friend of Malkin's.

MARIAN opens the door. ABBOTT and the BODYGAURD enter.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALLWAY - SAME

ABBOTT and the BODYGUARD stand with MARIAN in the dimly lit corridor of the orphanage. A few CHILDREN come out of their rooms to see what is happening.

MARIAN

What's wrong? Has Malkin been caught?

ABBOTT

In a way, yes. I'm afraid it's a long story. He asked me to give you this.

ABBOTT shows the wrapped package, which is nearly as large as MARIAN.

ABBOTT and MARIAN pull away the canvas cover. A large painting of Mayda and Malkin is revealed.

MARIAN is astonished.

ABBOTT

There is a lot of explaining to do. But don't worry. From now on, you're going to be perfectly safe.

INT. FORTRESS. DUNGEON. NIGHT

ABBOTT, GYAN, REEGAN, MALKIN and MAYDA continue to sit in the dungeon. LUANA and OKEN stand facing each other. KADEN stands with them looking doubtful.

LUANA

Emperor Oken, you must believe my words. Will you help us?

OKEN turns away, shaking his head.

OKEN

My officers will not believe it. If the fear of God does not persuade them, then what chance do I have?

MAYDA stands and walks over to KADEN.

MAYDA

Uncle...please help us.

MAYDA turns to OKEN, grabs him by the arm and shakes him.

MAYDA

Please, emperor.

OKEN snaps out of his anxiety.

OKEN

Very well. I will allow you to go to the mountain.

MALKIN stands from the bench.

MALKIN

What about Rimal? We need him.

OKEN

Kaden, can you find him? Nobody will be suspicious of you. I will lead the rest as far as I can.

KADEN pauses for a moment. He nods.

INT. FORTRESS - REAR GATES - DAWN

Two GUARDS stand ready by the rear gates holding torches.

A figure appears in the darkness. As it grows closer, the dim light catches his face. It's OKEN.

OKEN

(to the soldiers)
Lithian enemies are heading toward the island. We need as many men as possible at the harbour.

GUARD 1

But emperor, General
Rivenstone has ordered us to
guard these gates at all
cost.

OKEN

I am your emperor. Now, do as
I say.

The two GUARDS run off toward the front towers.

OKEN whistles.

MALKIN, MAYDA, REEGAN, GYAN and LUANA appear from the
darkness. OKEN pulls open the gates.

MAYDA

I hope my uncle is okay.

LUANA

I don't care about him. But
we need Rimal.

MAYDA

Should we wait for them?

MALKIN

There is no time. We'll just
have to hope they follow us.

MALKIN and OKEN pull open the gates of the fortress. The
group make their escape.

EXT. FORTRESS - COURTYARD - NIGHT

KADEN leads RIMAL through the courtyard holding a dagger by
his back. A few torch-carrying SOLDIERS stand observing on
the fortress walls.

RIMAL

How could you betray us after
all that has happened?

KADEN

I'm on your side now. Just
look like I'm holding you
prisoner.

RIMAL

You believe our words now?

KADEN

I'm still not convinced, but I care about what happens to Mayda. Now, how do we get to the mountain path from here?

RIMAL

Over there.

KADEN leads RIMAL down under an archway.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOOT - DAWN

MALKIN, MAYDA, OKEN, GYAN, REEGAN and LUANA reach the mountain trail. The sun is beginning to rise.

MALKIN

Somebody should wait here for Rimal and Kaden.

GYAN

Reegan and I will wait for them. The rest of you carry on. We will meet you at the top.

MALKIN

Everybody else, let's go. We don't know how long it will take to reach the shrine.

MALKIN, MAYDA, OKEN and LUANA make their way up the mountain trail. GYAN and REEGAN stand and wait.

INT. FORTRESS - DUNGEON - SAME

The dungeon now stands deserted. Footsteps ring out from the stairway. RIVENSTONE appears.

RIVENSTONE looks around him. Nothing. He steps into the cell. Nothing.

EXT. FORTRESS - COURTYARD - SAME

The courtyard and the fortress walls are now almost completely dry of soldiers. Two SOLDIERS run through the courtyard heading for the front gates. RIVENSTONE appears from one of the towers.

RIVENSTONE

Soldier, why is this place deserted?

SOLDIER

Emperor Oken has ordered us
to the harbour. The Lithian
fleet is on its way.

RIVENSTONE

And where is Emperor Oken
now?

SOLDIER

I left the emperor by the
rear gates, sir.

RIVENSTONE pauses in thought for a moment.

RIVENSTONE

You two, follow us.

SOLDIER

But sir, Emperor Oken has
ordered..

RIVENSTONE

Forget that.

The two SOLDIERS follow RIVENSTONE toward the rear gates.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - DAWN

The mountain view is scarcely visible as the snow pours
from the sky. The mountain trail winds upward.

OKEN leads MAYDA, MALKIN and LUANA along the pathway.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOOT - MORNING

GYAN and REEGAN wait by the trail. GYAN sits on a boulder.
REEGAN paces up and down.

GYAN

Why can't they hurry?

Two figures appear from the fortress gates. It's KADEN and
RIMAL.

GYAN

Look.

KADEN and RIMAL meet with GYAN and REEGAN.

KADEN

Come on, there isn't much
time.

RIMAL, KADEN, GYAN and REEGAN head toward the mountain.

Just as they get moving a crossbow bolt shoots into the ground by KADEN's foot.

KADEN turns to see RIVENSTONE and two SOLDIERS heading towards them.

KADEN
Reegan, lead Rimal up the
mountain. Gyan and I will
stop them.

REEGAN and RIMAL hurry onward up the mountain trail.

KADEN and GYAN remain steadfast.

RIVENSTONE and the two SOLDIERS reach KADEN and GYAN. RIVENSTONE points his crossbow and stop a few feet from them.

RIVENSTONE
Stop where you are. You have
no weapons. If you run I will
shoot.

EXT. HARBOUR - DAY

A fog rolls across the waters surrounding the island. Something pokes out from the midst of it - a ship mast with the Lithian flag raised creeps out of the fog. Soon, the entire ship is revealed.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - FURTHER - DAY

MAYDA, MALKIN and LUANA trudge up the rocky mountain trail led by OKEN.

MAYDA stops.

MAYDA
Malkin, I'm so tired. I don't
think I can go on.

MALKIN
We have to go on. We have to
get to that shrine.

MAYDA
What if Rimal doesn't make
it? It's useless without him.

MALKIN takes MAYDA by the hand and leads her further on with the rest of the group.

MALKIN
We can make it.

EXT. HARBOUR - DAY

The fog rolls across the island. Everything appears calm.

The Lithian ships have landed at the harbour. SOLDIERS pile out of the ships, battle-ready for an imminent attack. They stand by the harbour. A commanding OFFICER disembarks surrounded by lower ranked GUARDS.

A number of Lithian SOLDIERS are hit by arrows and fall to the ground.

Arthenean SOLDIERS appear from the fog charging toward the Lithians.

OFFICER

FORWARD!

The Lithian SOLDIERS charge toward the Arthenean SOLDIERS. Some are hit by arrows, but many more get through.

The two opposing forces clash. A battle ensues.

Arrows fly. SOLDIERS fall. Swords clash. SOLDIERS fall.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOOT - DAY

KADEN and REEGAN stand by the mountain trail. Crossbows are still being pointed at KADEN and GYAN. RIVENSTONE steps forward cautiously.

GYAN

Time is running out for you,
do you realise that?

RIVENSTONE

Oken might be foolish enough
to believe Rimal's fantasy,
but I'm not.

GYAN

You're making a mistake.

The sudden sound of rumbling can be heard. A few rocks clatter down from the mountainside resting by KADEN's feet.

GYAN and KADEN give each other a nervous glance.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - FURTHER - DAY.

The mountain begins to rumble. Rocks and boulders begin to fall from high up on the mountain. MALKIN, MAYDA, LUANA and OKEN stumble.

MALKIN

Everybody take cover.

OKEN

Our armies must have clashed.

The group sidle up against the mountain as debris showers down past them.

A large boulder thunders down in front of MAYDA blocking the trail ahead. She panics and slips off the walkway. Instinctively, she grabs a branch and she is left hanging over the edge.

The rumbling stops.

MALKIN

Mayda hold on. I'm coming.

MALKIN reaches over the edge and stretches his arms towards MAYDA.

MALKIN

Emperor, hold me.

As OKEN holds him steady, MALKIN stretches for MAYDA.

MALKIN

Mayda, reach out. Reach...

MAYDA stretches out her arm and manages to clasp MALKIN's arm. MALKIN pulls her up. The group steady themselves. MALKIN embraces MAYDA.

OKEN

How will we go on? The path is blocked.

MALKIN walks over to the boulder. He tries to push it. It doesn't move. He tries again without success.

MALKIN

The spirit of that horse would be useful. If only...

LUANA remembers. She puts her hand into her pocket and pulls out the vial.

LUANA

Malkin...

MALKIN turns. He sees the vial and smiles. He walks over to LUANA and takes it.

MALKIN raises the vial to his face. He opens the lid. The misty spirits begin to rise, swirling in the air.

LUANA

Breathe...

MALKIN inhales. The swirling spirits become sucked into a long thin stream as they enter his nose...his lungs...his body. He closes the lid.

MALKIN

Now help me. Everybody help.

MALKIN, MAYDA, OKEN and LUANA begin to push the boulder. It moves a little. Then some more.

It begins rolling off the edge of the pathway. It crashes against side of the mountain as it thunders downward.

MAYDA

Look!

MAYDA points behind her. RIMAL and REEGAN have arrived.

MALKIN

Okay, let's get moving. We haven't got much time.

MALKIN, MAYDA, RIMAL, LUANA, OKEN and REEGAN continue climbing the mountain.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOOT - DAY

The mountain rumbles. More rocks pour down the mountainside.

GYAN

Can't you see what's happening here? You fire that bolt and you're finished.

RIVENSTONE

I don't think so.

KADEN

(to the soldiers)

And you two. You'll go along with him.

The SOLDIERS give each other glance, obviously becoming nervous. They stare at each other before scampering back to the fortress.

The mountain rumbles once more. RIVENSTONE and GYAN lose their footing and stumble. RIVENSTONE drops the crossbow.

KADEN manages to stay on his feet. He pulls out a small dagger that is tied to his ankle. He grabs RIVENSTONE and holds the knife to his throat.

KADEN

A twist of fate, old friend.

GYAN

Wait! We don't know what's going to happen.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

The mountain-top rumbles violently. Snow covering the peak begins to fall away.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - FURTHER - DAY

The group are now high on the mountain. The wind is strong. OKEN leads MALKIN, MAYDA, RIMAL, REEGAN and LUANA further.

OKEN

We are almost there. I can see the shrine. It's just a little further.

The ground shakes. LUANA stumbles. OKEN steadies her.

OKEN

Keep going.

MALKIN

There is no need for all of you to go any further. Rimal and Mayda and I can take the final steps.

OKEN

We'll wait here for you.

MALKIN takes MAYDA by the hand and leads her onward.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - SHRINE - DAY

The shrine looks old and is crumbling. A highly-detailed bench sits below an equally well-crafted archway. It is still beautiful after years of erosion.

RIMAL, MALKIN and MAYDA reach the shrine.

MALKIN wipes the snow from the ornate bench.

MAYDA

We made it.

RIMAL

Sit down.

MALKIN wraps his cloak around himself and MAYDA. They draw close to each other.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOOT - SAME

KADEN continues to hold RIVENSTONE. GYAN stands by.

The mountain rumbles more violently this time. They all fall over.

RIVENSTONE rolls toward the crossbow. He sees it and grabs it.

GYAN stands up. RIVENSTONE aims at him. KADEN stands.

RIVENSTONE fires the bolt. It hits GYAN in the chest. He falls to the ground. KADEN picks up his dagger.

RIVENSTONE gets up and runs back to the fortress.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - SAME

MALKIN and MAYDA still sit on the shrine. RIMAL steadies himself. He opens the book and begins to read.

RIMAL

Light of the heavens, come to
me by morning, come to me by
night. Light of the heavens,
come close to me. Lord, let
us be free.

RIMAL closes the book. He gives MALKIN and MAYDA a reassuring look before returning to the rest of the group.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOOT - SAME

KADEN walks over to GYAN. He kneels beside him. GYAN fights to breathe. Blood seeps into his mouth. KADEN lifts GYAN's head into his arms.

GYAN

Have we succeeded?

KADEN nods.

GYAN's eyes close. He stops breathing. His head drops.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - SHRINE - DAY

The wind begins to pick up. Clouds gather in the sky above them.

A few snow flakes begin to fall in front of MALKIN and MAYDA.

The sound of the wind becomes louder. The snowfall becomes heavier.

There is a bright burst of light in the sky. The burst becomes a rip in the sky, a tare in the fabric of space.

A wispy head appears from the tare. He blows a wind over the mountain.

The falling snow gradually clears to reveal MAYDA and MALKIN completely frozen over. They are now a white, glistening statue.

EXT. MOUNAIN TRAIL - DAY

LUANA, OKEN and REEGAN stand looking up at the mountain. Falling snow almost covers the view of the shrine.

LUANA

My word!

LUANA, OKEN and REEGAN suddenly stop moving. The mountain stops shaking. Everything freezes. Time has stopped.

EXT. MARKETPLACE - SAME

The marketplace is very crowded. People are moving to-and-fro between stalls. MANDEL walks through it, his face semi-covered by a hood.

MANDEL and the CROWD suddenly become motionless. The ambient noise of the crowd suddenly ceases.

EXT. ISLAND HARBOUR - SAME

The SOLDIERS continue to battle. They suddenly freeze.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOOT - SAME

KADEN continues to cradle GYAN in his arms. KADEN looks up at the mountain. Everything stops.

EXT. VOLCANO - DAY

The landscape is barren. The sky is grey with a disturbingly purple tinge. The surroundings are dismal and colourless, grey as the sky.

The mountain is now a smouldering volcano.

MALKIN and MAYDA sit on the shrine, which is now broken and run-down. They stand, looking around. The distant sea around the island glows orange. Now a sea of bubbling lava. There's no escape.

Next to MALKIN is a stone pillar. A bow with a leather pouch of arrows rests on top of it.

MAYDA

Where are we?

MALKIN

The underworld. The gates of hell. We should start moving.

MALKIN takes out an arrow from the pouch. The tip of the arrow shines, bathed in white light. He puts it back and puts the bow and pouch over his shoulder.

MALKIN begins to walk away. MAYDA begins to follow.

MAYDA

Malkin...

MALKIN turns to see MAYDA gradually fading. MALKIN reaches out to grab her, but it's too useless. She has vanished.

MALKIN looks around. Nothing. He begins his lengthy trek downward.

EXT. VOLCANO - LATER

As MALKIN begins to move, there is a loud, sharp roar.

MALKIN looks up to see a giant one-eyed monster racing up the mountain that rapidly flickers, constantly disappearing and re-appearing.

The monster randomly smashes a club into the rocks below it, shattering them into pieces.

MALKIN takes an arrow and aims at the eye. It's no use. The monster just vanishes and reappears somewhere else.

MALKIN closes his eyes.

A gold marking appears in the middle of MALKIN's forehead. It is the same shape as the Arthenean symbol. It's an eye.

The monster is now visible and it's giant eye has turned a lucid red.

MALKIN aims directly into the eye of the monster. The monster runs toward him waving its club around.

MALKIN steadies himself. The monster draws ever closer.

MALKIN releases the bow string and the arrow flies through the air.

A direct hit. The monster wails in agony and disappears in a flash of light.

MALKIN flinches as he feels a sharp pain on the back of his hand. He looks at hit. One of the markings has vanished.

The volcano begins to rumble more now. Rocks are spewed into the air as steam bursts out of the rocky terrain.

MALKIN stops to take in a breath before continuing his climb down the volcano.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOOT - DAY

MALKIN reaches the foot of the mountain. The fortress has been replaced by a dark and gloomy castle, obviously accommodating something particularly evil.

The moat has been replaced by a lava pool, completely surrounding the castle. A bridge separates the mountain-foot and the castle grounds.

MALKIN pauses at the bridge. A large wooden door covers the entrance.

MALKIN crosses the bridge cautiously. The lava pool bubbles and spits below him.

The grey stone bridge begins to crack and crumble. Chunks of stone fall away, landing in the lava.

MALKIN looks back to see the entire bridge fall, making a sickening hiss as it dissolves in the intense heat of the molten lava.

MALKIN grabs the handle of the wooden gate and pulls it open. He enters.

INT. CASTLE - DAY

MALKIN steps inside the castle. He stands in a courtyard. A number of open entrances look like they lead into the castle confines. It is deathly silent.

MALKIN pauses. He listens carefully. The silence is broken by what sounds like the wind blowing through the castle.

The sound becomes louder. It suddenly turns into a hiss. MALKIN recognises the sound and pulls the bow from his shoulder. He removes one of the light-arrows and readies himself.

Dark spirits suddenly pour out of the doorways. MALKIN begins to shoot them with the arrows. The dark spirits vanish in a burst of light as they are hit.

As the spirits try to take him, MALKIN pushes forward to one of the open doorways of a tower.

He aims. He shoots. He hits. Spirits vanish.

The spirits retreat as MALKIN reaches the entrance. He enters, shutting the door behind him.

MALKIN's attention is drawn to the back of his hand again. The second marking has vanished. Only one remains.

EXT. VOLCANO - SAME

The volcano rumbles violently. It shakes. The top of the volcano bursts open, spewing lava and ash into the air. Lava begins to spill down the side of the mountain.

INT. CASTLE. TOWER. DAY

MALKIN pauses for a breath. Steps wind downwards below.

A loud roar comes from below. MALKIN heads on.

INT. CASTLE - TOWER - DAY

MALKIN reaches the bottom of the tower. The room is a corridor, leading to what looks like a cave. MALKIN creeps towards it.

MALKIN pauses by the cave entrance. He looks at the wall. He draws his hand across it. He rubs his fingers. Slime stretches across them as he pulls them apart. He enters the cave.

INT. CAVE - DAY

The walls are covered with slime. He looks around. The large room has a labyrinth of tunnels connecting it. The cave is dark. A few lit torches hang around the walls. A passage at the rear of the cave spills out a lucid orange glow.

A loud growl comes from one of the tunnels. MALKIN steps backwards.

From the darkness of the cave something sticks out. It steps out further. A head of a beast is revealed. It growls and steps out again. A second head pokes out. It growls again.

The BEAST - a monster with two heads, a thick leathery-skinned body and a scorpion-tail - leaps forward.

The BEAST spins and it's giant tail swings toward MALKIN. MALKIN manages to leap out of the way and the tail smashes into the wall.

MALKIN fires arrows at the BEAST, but they just bounce off its thick, leathery skin.

The BEAST'S left-head lunges at MALKIN, teeth dripping with saliva.

MALKIN draws his sword and thrusts it at the beast. The head retracts.

The BEAST swipes its tiger-like claws toward MALKIN. It catches his arm, drawing a red line of blood across the skin. MALKIN flinches.

MALKIN thrusts the sword again. It hits the BEAST, catching it in the face of one of the heads. The BEAST roars.

The BEAST swings its tail once again. Again, MALKIN jumps out of the way and the tail smashes into the wall. Rocks from the wall fall down on top of the BEAST knocking it to the ground and trapping it.

As the BEAST is trapped, MALKIN slices his sword across its stomach. The BEAST writhes and roars in agony. Snakes pour out of its stomach and slither away.

The BEAST dies.

MALKIN pauses to take a breath before taking the lit passage.

EXT. VOLCANO - SAME

More lava is thrown into the air. Lava continues to pour down the side as it draws close to the castle.

INT. DEVIL'S LAIR - SAME

The walls are stony and jagged. A large circular stone platform sits at the centre of the room, surrounded by a bubbling lava pool. A small stone bridge stretches over the lava onto the platform.

MALKIN crosses the bridge and moves to the centre of the platform.

The ground begins to shake and there is a loud rumble. The bridge falls away.

The DEVIL rises from the lava. A large dragon-like monster covered in fire. Molten rock falls from its body as it rises. It lets out a loud shrill.

MALKIN looks on in terror.

The DEVIL opens its mouth and a fireball launches toward MALKIN. He rolls out of the way and the fireball hits the ground, scorching the rock.

MALKIN fires a few light-arrows at the DEVIL, but they bounce off in a flash of light.

EXT. CASTLE - SAME

Lava begins to surround the castle. The walls of the castle begin to crack and fall away to sink as the heat from the lava dissolves the stone blocks.

INT. DEVIL'S LAIR - SAME

The monster swoops down toward MALKIN. He ducks and falls to the ground. He draws his sword.

The DEVIL swoops again. MALKIN swings at it. The DEVIL's talon swipes the sword from MALKIN's hand. It flies through the air, landing in the ring of lava. It sinks as it bursts into flames.

MALKIN turns to the entrance in an attempt escape, but lava begins to spill into the lair.

MALKIN stands and stares straight at the DEVIL. The DEVIL stares back.

The monster launches a long burst of flames at MALKIN. It hits the ground close to his feet, surrounding him in a circular wall of fire.

MALKIN turns to see a stone pillar appear from nowhere. On top of the pillar is a bright, shining shield. MALKIN looks at it. He leaps through the wall of fire toward it.

The DEVIL swoops down over MALKIN. MALKIN is knocked to the ground in front of the pillar. He reaches forward and picks up the shield. He stands.

Lava pouring in from the entrance has now covered most of the floor. It draws closer to MALKIN's feet. He is trapped.

The DEVIL hovers above the ground in front of MALKIN. It launches another fireball at MALKIN. This time MALKIN crouches on the ground behind the shield.

The fireball strikes the shield. The shield begins to glow.

Another fireball hits the shield. Then another. And another. The shield now glows brightly.

A light ray bursts from the shield hitting the surrounding walls. The walls begin to crumble.

MALKIN aims the ray at the DEVIL. It screams as the flesh begins to fall from its body and dissolve on the ground.

MALKIN looks at his hand. The final mark quickly fades away.

He continues to point the light at the DEVIL as its skeleton is revealed. It turns to white stone and falls to the floor and smashing in a cloud of dust.

The lava surrounding MALKIN draws nearer.

The rays of the shield again fall on the surrounding walls. They crumble and fall away.

A ball of light bursts out from the shield. It expands over the lava instantly freezing it to a thick layer of ice. It grows and completely engulfs the lair and penetrates the walls.

EXT. CASTLE - SAME

The ball of light covers the castle and reaches the volcano. The lava spilling down the side of it freezes.

The peak of the volcano stops spewing lava as the light freezes it. The light passes revealing a completely frozen mountain, shining white.

INT. DEVIL'S LAIR - SAME

The floor cracks up and falls away beneath MALKIN'S feet.

MALKIN falls into a black void. He reaches out his hand in attempt to grab hold of something. There's nothing there. He is falling.

The surroundings begin to fade away as MALKIN is left in a void.

He hit's something, but everything around him is black.

MALKIN clammers to his feet. He looks around. He turns and sees MAYDA. MALKIN walks over to her. MAYDA offers her hand to MALKIN. MALKIN accepts. They look upwards.

A bubble begins to descend from above. It engulfs the two. It slowly rises up with them inside.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - DAY

MALKIN and MAYDA still sit on the shrine, apparently asleep. MALKIN's eyes flicker as they slowly open. He looks around him before standing. He arouses MAYDA as she too wakes up.

They stand from the bench and face each other. They turn back. MAYDA gasps as she sees herself and Malkin as a white statue, still sitting on the bench.

MAYDA
What's happening?

MAYDA turns to look back don the mountain-side.

MAYDA
Look, I can see them.

MAYDA points toward LUANA and the others lower on the mountain-side. She smiles at MALKIN before running down the mountain trail. MALKIN quickly follows.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - SAME

LUANA, RIMAL, REEGAN and OKEN stand, looking up at the shrine. They are completely still - frozen in time. MAYDA arrives closely followed by MALKIN. MAYDA looks around. She turns to MALKIN.

MAYDA
What's happened to them?

MALKIN looks on in confusion. There is a pause of silence.

MALKIN
We failed.

MAYDA
Failed?

MALKIN ignores MAYDA as he walks to RIMAL who is still clutching the sacred red book.

MALKIN
So it was all for nothing.

MALKIN becomes angry and snatches the book from RIMAL. He throws it to the ground.

MALKIN
NOTHING!

MAYDA runs over to MALKIN. She begins to cry.

MAYDA

Malkin, please. I'm
frightened.

MALKIN still ignores MAYDA's plea. He wanders around, dazed
and confused.

MALKIN

I found my family. I found
love. I had all the riches of
the world. And now we're
trapped here. Here for
eternity. And all because of
that book.

MALKIN angrily throws the book on the floor. It opens on a
page.

MALKIN

This damned book!

MALKIN sees a blank page. He heads over to it and kneels
down. MALKIN becomes confused. He rapidly flicks through
the pages.

MALKIN

The pages. The writing. It's
gone.

MAYDA

Gone?

MALKIN continues to flick through the book. Indeed, the
pages are all blank. MALKIN lands on the final page. The
paragraph that once was empty is now filled with writing.
MALKIN and MAYDA begin to read it.

MALKIN

(reading)

The one who defeats the
darkness with light will
return to his land with his
beloved. But the one who uses
darkness against darkness
will return to his true home
from where he came. But not
as one...as two.

MALKIN closes the book. He drops it on the floor. He turns
to Mayda.

MALKIN

I battled the beasts. I used
darkness against darkness.
Mayda, we're never returning
to the world we once knew.

MALKIN stands, as does MAYDA.

MAYDA
Then we failed?

MALKIN
No...We...Succeeded. We are going
home. But not as one. As two.

MAYDA and MALKIN embrace each other. They kiss. They begin to fade, gradually disappearing.

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - DAY

MALKIN and MAYDA are still frozen over. The Arthenean 'eye' is now visible on Malkin's forehead. A burst of white light expands from it. It expands and spreads across the lands.

EXT. SPACE - SAME

The planet turns white as the wall of light stretches right across it.

EXT. MARKETPLACE - SAME

MANDEL is wandering around the marketplace.

VENDOR
Look at that.

The VENDOR points to the distance. An eerie white glow lingers on the horizon.

The wall of light tares toward the marketplace. The CROWD in the marketplace stare at it in terror.

The light covers the CROWD.

Nothing happens to them apart from MANDEL. He drops to the floor and a dark spirit exits him. The spirit squeals as it is sucked into the ground. MANDEL turns into a pile of white ash.

EXT. FORTRESS - SAME

RIVENSTONE walks through the fortress courtyard. The wall of light engulfs him. He turns to a pile of ash.

EXT. HARBOUR - SAME

The soldiers begin to move again. Attacking. Defending. They are unaware of the fire-like wall. It passes over them, instantly turning them to a pile of ash.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - SAME

RIMAL, LUANA and OKEN and REEGAN continue looking at the mountain peak. The wind dies down. LUANA and OKEN look at each other. They embrace.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOOT - SAME

KADEN looks at the mountain. He looks back at GYAN's body. He lets out a sigh of relief.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - SAME

RIMAL, KADEN, LUANA, REEGAN and OKEN come together. They stare up at the mountain.

REEGAN

The moment they were born
their fate was sealed.

A tear forms in LUANA's eyes.

LUANA

And what now? Where do we go
from here?

OKEN

Perhaps this can be a turning
point for our people.

LUANA embraces OKEN.

RIMAL

And now you have an heir to
take care of.

REEGAN

We will all certainly have
stories to tell.

The group continue to look at the mountain.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PEAK - SAME

MAYDA and MALKIN are frozen on the mountain.

The heroes remain frozen on the mountain as the ground slowly moves away. The full mountain gradually becomes visible. The white wispy clouds come into view before...

INT. HEAVEN

The circular structure in heaven comes into view.

Two ghostly white figures standing in God's place. One of the figures has long brown hair. The other, female, has red hair.

The view of heaven and the figures begins to draw away. It becomes surrounded by a white oval over the blackness of space and gradually becomes smaller before vanishing in a flash of light.

EXT. OUTERSPACE

A sea of white stars sits over the vastness of space.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

The children sit staring in awe at the TEACHER, absolutely transfixed. The TEACHER turns to the wall. A painting of Mayda and Malkin hangs behind her. The TEACHER is an elderly MARIAN.

MARIAN closes the book. The title of the book reads: Make a Dream Survive. The author simply reads: Reegan.

MARIAN

In the short time that I knew Malkin, he certainly left a mark on my life. On all our lives. I'm sure he's looking over us now. Protecting us.

EXT. MARKETPLACE - DAY

A crowd is gathered in the marketplace. The people are cheering. The crowd are split into two. A gangway separating them.

MARIAN

(V.O.)

A great sadness was felt when Malkin and Mayda couldn't be returned to us. But they left us with great joy. They left us with a legacy.

A middle-aged man, AULAN, dressed in an elaborate robe passes through the crowd. The crowd cheer as he passes. All of them celebrating him.

AULAN occasionally reaches out to touch the crowd members.

MARIAN

(V.O.)

Their son grew into a wonderful man. After all, he was someone special. He was a descendent of the Lord. Our Lord.

AULAN continues to pass through the crowd. The crowd continue to cheer.

EXT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

The children continue to listen to MARIAN as she clutches the book.

MARIAN

After that day, the friends went their separate ways, but they never forgot each other. Reegan returned to his family. There he spent many days writing this book so that the story, and Malkin and Mayda would never be forgotten. Eventually he decided to take up the farm. He'd seen enough adventure. As for Kaden, he remained on the island where Gyan was laid to rest. Luana returned to Lithe to take care of Aulan. Oken joined her and decided that they should lead our world together, in unity. Rimal retired to his homeland. His quest to find Malkin had exhausted him.

Tears form in MARIAN's eyes.

MARIAN

Today, people call Malkin their hero. Their saviour. To me, he was more than that. He was my friend.

FADE OUT.