

**LEGACY TWO: ORIGINS**

Written by

Danielle R Erlich

FADE IN:

SERIES OF SHOTS

A bird's-eye view of Chailya Castle. It's so tall that it seems to touch the dawn sky. It is a worn grey with wild ivy growing all over the walls. There is a well, and a large drawbridge.

Wildflowers surround the castle, and the huge trees have grown right up to the walls. The trees have grown everywhere except a small clearing which overlooks a village below. In the background there's a BABBLING brook.

Across the drawbridge, a town square appears. There are shops on either side filled with odd items.

A TICKING is heard in the background.

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)

Warnin's.

(beat)

There's a reason yer elders ingrained them in ya. These stories are passed down in order to prevent evil from reoccurrin'. Yet, still, those capable of knowledge, will ignore these signs of darkness that they know all too well.

TOWN SQUARE

Some of the signs for the shops read "Prunella's Discount Cauldrons", "Landry's Magical Medicine", "Fox's Robe Emporium", and "Atlantis's Lost Books".

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)

What many have learned, is ignorin' these warnin's doesn't make the evil go away. And when ya put yer wants and needs ahead of yer obligations, ya create pain for all those ya love - one selfish choice. One selfish act, by one in a position of power, is all that's needed for the darkness to cause the dominoes to fall.

A window comes into view in the castle tower. Sitting by the window is a YOUNG MAN(24) with dark hair and green eyes.

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)

Once the first domino has fallen,  
it becomes a race against time to  
prevent a new painful reality from  
occurin'.

INT. CASTLE TOWER - DAWN

The Young Man is illustrating a picture of the clouds. He touches the book and the illustration begins to move...

We ENTER on the illustration of the sky moving in the book.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Clouds are traveling by. The clouds break, and there are rolling green hillsides. Mountains are on the horizon.

Moving towards the mountains, there is a river running through them. The river leads towards a village with a few small wooden huts

EXT. ABANDONED VILLAGE - DAY

SUPER: "MANY MANY YEARS AGO"

The TICKING continues.

Chickens are running around the grounds, and there is not a soul in sight. Fog and smoke make it difficult to see the nearby woods.

All the wooden windows and doors are closed, and the village looks abandoned except for one hut on the outskirts. Skinned Rabbit pelts are drying on a line, and Chicken carcasses are cooking over a small fire.

INT. HUT - DAY

A metronome on a table is TICKING.

There is an OLD GREY MAN(78) sitting at a round wooden table in the hut. On the table there are layers of parchment, and star charts, both spread out and rolled up. There is also a quill pen, and a bottle of ink.

The Old Grey Man has long grey hair, a long white beard, ice blue eyes, and is wearing light blue robes, with a dark blue amulet around his neck.

The Old Grey Man is in a trance. His hands pick up the quill and writes on a piece of paper. The TICKING from the metronome stops, and the trance breaks. The Old Grey Man drops the quill. He reads what he wrote in a low inaudible WHISPER.

A BLACK RAT is hiding in a crack in one of the wooden walls. He pokes his head out as the Old Grey Man WHISPERS in an Irish accent. The rat's super hearing allows him to eavesdrop.

OLD GREY MAN

No!

(beat)

This can't be true!

(beat)

She can't come back!

The Old Grey Man trembles. He sits down in his chair and rocks back and forth staring at nothing in the distance with worry in his eyes.

EXT. ABANDONED VILLAGE - DAY

A DIRTY MAN(37) appears out of thin air at the edge of the woods. He is dressed in torn, tan riding pants, and a torn white shirt. He has a slight beard, shaggy hair and an amulet around his neck. He opens the door to the hut, and walks in.

INT. THE HUT - DAY

The Dirty Man enters. He notices the Old Grey Man is MUMBLING to himself. The expression on his face is one of tremendous fear. The Dirty Man has a cockney accent.

DIRTY MAN

Are ya all right?

OLD GREY MAN

(mumbling)

She can't come back.

(beat)

She can't come back.

The Dirty Man approaches slowly.

DIRTY MAN

Are ya all right?

OLD GREY MAN

Oh...

(snaps out of it)

Oh!

DIRTY MAN

Did I interrupt?

OLD GREY MAN

No, I've just finished.

DIRTY MAN

Well...

As the Old Grey Man grabs his quill and scribbles on a piece of blank parchment, the Dirty Man looks at the metronome.

DIRTY MAN  
What is this?

OLD GREY MAN  
A family heirloom. The noise it produces puts those with me power into a trance.

DIRTY MAN  
How interestin'.

The Old Grey Man then rolls up the paper he was writing on, burns his seal on it, and hands it to the Dirty Man.

OLD GREY MAN  
This is very important. Now, get this to the King as quickly as possible.

DIRTY MAN  
Why not just peridot over yerself?

OLD GREY MAN  
Stop talking, and listen!  
(beat)  
Do not read this or you'll be killed, and don't let it out of yer sight.

DIRTY MAN  
I still don't understand why ya won't just tell him yerself?

OLD GREY MAN  
I know too much. Only the King can know this information. I'm a threat to us all, and must do what's necessary to keep this information privileged.

DIRTY MAN  
What're ya goin' to do?

OLD GREY MAN  
What I must. Now make haste.

The Dirty Man runs out of the hut and disappears mid-stride. The Old Grey Man takes the original piece of paper he scribbled on, plus the metronome, and throws them into the fire place. He watches as they are engulfed in flames.

The Old Grey Man then walks over to the table, grabs a blade from it, and plunges the blade into his chest.

The Old Grey Man falls to the floor. The life leaves his tired eyes. Upon his final breath, his amulet vanishes. The rat crawls over the Old Grey Man's dead body and moves out the door.

EXT. ABANDONED VILLAGE - MOMENTS LATER

As the rat is moving he morphs into a ratty, sinister, dark, UGLY MAN(28) in black robes, with a red amulet around his neck. He stops, looks back at the hut, smirks, and then takes off running into the forest.

INT. LACHLAN AND ABIGAIL'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

SUPER: "DUBLIN VIEW IRELAND, PRESENT DAY"

A dark silhouette moves through a moonlit hallway towards a closed door that has light pouring through its cracks. A woman CRYING can be heard through the door.

The silhouette slowly and quietly opens the door and as the light hits his face LACHLAN O'MALLEY(17) comes into view.

Lachlan has classic tall, dark, and handsome looks, with blue eyes. Lachlan peeks through the small opening in the door and sees his mother ABIGAIL(37).

INT. ABIGAIL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

She is lying on her bed CRYING in the candle light. Abigail is a beautiful, dark, Irish woman. She is slender and has porcelain skin. Photographs of her and a man looking very much in love are thrown about the room.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

After a moment of watching, Lachlan's eyes grow sad, and he shuts the door.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

A quaint kitchen, made from wood and tile. Beautiful fresh flowers are everywhere, and pots are hanging from the ceiling. A TV is on the counter playing a muted Linkin Park music video.

The sun is pouring in through the open, stained glass window above the sink. Fog can be seen in the distance. Birds SING a beautiful song.

The birdsong is interrupted by the sounds of PUNK MUSIC. Lachlan sits at the kitchen table. He sets himself apart by dressing punk, and carrying a journal with him everywhere.

Lachlan doesn't watch the TV. He listens to PUNK MUSIC in his earphones. Lachlan eats cereal, and reads a comic book. He finishes his cereal, puts his comic book down, and carries his dishes to the sink.

Abigail enters. She wears a suit and carries a cup of coffee. She looks tired and her eyes and nose are still red from crying. It's clear she is trying to hide her sadness.

Abigail tries to quietly BLOW her nose. She has an Irish accent.

ABIGAIL  
Don't forget Lachlan, ya have to start packin' today. And, we have to make a list of what you'll need for yer dormitory.

Lachlan has his back to his mother and seems to be ignoring her.

ABIGAIL  
Lachlan? Lachlan, are ya listenin' to me?

She walks over and removes one of Lachlan's earphones. Lachlan has an Irish accent.

ABIGAIL  
(yells)  
Lachlan!

LACHLAN  
Eh mum! Ya say somethin'?

ABIGAIL  
I told ya not to listen to yer music so loud! Do ya know how bad that is for yer ears? And why is the TV on? Ya aren't even watchin' it!

Abigail switches off the T.V.

LACHLAN  
Err sorry mum. What d'ya want?

ABIGAIL  
How about we start with "good mornin' mum, did ya sleep well"?

LACHLAN  
Fine, good mornin' ma! Did ya sleep well?

ABIGAIL  
Now that wasn't too hard was it? I slept as well as I can nowadays.  
(beat)  
How was the dance last night?

LACHLAN  
I don't wanna talk about it.

ABIGAIL  
Lachlan...

LACHLAN  
 Fine, if ya really want to know,  
 she only went out with me to make  
 her ex-boyfriend jealous. Then she  
 ditched me halfway through.

ABIGAIL  
 I'm so sorry, me darlin' boy.

LACHLAN  
 At this point I'm used to it.

ABIGAIL  
 Things'll change when ya go to  
 university. I promise ya they will.

LACHLAN  
 Sure it will.

ABIGAIL  
 There's an entire world out there  
 to explore Lachlan. Yer life  
 doesn't begin and end in high  
 school. Please believe me.

Lachlan nods, and looks out the kitchen window.

ABIGAIL  
 Speakin' of university, I want ya  
 to spend some time packin' today.

LACHLAN  
 Fine, but later. I have school.

ABIGAIL  
 Only a half day today right?

LACHLAN  
 Yes, but I've somewhere I need to  
 be after.

ABIGAIL  
 Don't tell me yer goin' back up to  
 that abandoned castle? I know yer  
 practically an adult, and can do  
 whatcha want...

LACHLAN  
 Exactly, so why are ya bringin'  
 this up?

ABIGAIL  
 Because ya know how much I hate  
 that ya go up there. It's too  
 dangerous.  
 (beat)  
 Do ya know what I'd do if anythin'  
 ever happened to ya?

LACHLAN  
 I don't go in it Mum, and you'll  
 never lose me.



ABIGAIL  
 Yer me life, me heart, and me soul  
 Lachlan. I'd rather lose a limb  
 than lose ya.

LACHLAN  
 I just like to write there. It puts  
 me in a creative mood. Besides, I'm  
 not a child.

ABIGAIL  
 I know yer not.

LACHLAN  
 I worked like hell to get that  
 scholarship. If that doesn't show  
 ya I'm mature enough to make me own  
 decisions, I don't know what will.

ABIGAIL  
 Fine.  
 (beat)  
 Go. But only outside. Don't let me  
 down, darlin'. Promise me you'll be  
 back by five to pack.

Lachlan walks to the door.

LACHLAN  
 (rolls eyes)  
 I promise.

ABIGAIL  
 Have a great last day!

Lachlan exits, and the door SLAMS shut behind him.

EXT. DUBLIN VIEW, IRELAND - LATER

Lachlan walks down the street. The high school is up ahead.  
 Teenagers from the school drive by. CONNOR(18) sticks his  
 head out of the passenger side of the car. He is your typical  
 obnoxious, blond-haired, blue-eyed, muscular jock.

CONNOR  
 Anchúinse!

The car speeds up a bit, and fishtails into the parking lot.  
 A group of students jump out of the way. The car SCREECHES  
 into a parking spot, and comes to a stop.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

The driver QUINN(17) steps out of the car. He has brown hair,  
 and brown eyes. It's obvious from the way people look at  
 Connor and Quinn that they rule the school. They're also both  
 rugby players.

They each go to the back doors and open them. BRIDGET(17) and SHANNON(17) step out. Bridget is a gorgeous redhead with emerald green eyes. She and Shannon are both wearing cheerleading outfits.

Shannon is a beautiful blonde with eyes as blue as sapphires. She is the Queen of the school, and Connor's girlfriend. Bridget is Quinn's girlfriend.

Lachlan walks past them.

CONNOR  
Hey Lachlan? Did ya have fun at the dance last night? Oh that's right... yer date ditched ya for an even bigger amadán!

Quinn, Connor, and Shannon laugh at Lachlan. Bridget looks uncomfortable. Quinn walks up to Lachlan and pushes the school books Lachlan has in his hands out of them, and they fall into a puddle.

QUINN  
Look what ya did, Lachlan.

Lachlan bends down to pick up the books, but Quinn steps on them, and mashes them in the water.

BRIDGET  
Quinn, that's enough!

QUINN  
Why do ya care? He's just a waste of space.  
(in Irish Gaelic;  
subtitled)

Bridget bends down to help Lachlan with his books.

QUINN  
Bridge, what are ya doin'?

BRIDGET  
Bein' a human bein'. Ya should try it sometime.

Quinn is about to say something when the bell RINGS. Quinn takes his foot off the books.

LACHLAN  
That would mean he would first have to evolve from the ape he is now.

Bridget laughs, and their eyes meet. Lachlan smiles at Bridget.

SHANNON  
Did ya hear what he just said to Bridget?

BRIDGET  
I'm sorry about him.

Quinn glares angrily at Lachlan as he talks to Bridget.

LACHLAN  
Ya don't have to apologize. Yer  
kind and have done nothin' wrong.  
However, Quinn's inbred arse owes  
me plenty.

Bridget GIGGLES.

QUINN  
What did ya say anchúinse?

Quinn charges Lachlan, and before Lachlan has a chance to react, Quinn punches him in the face. Lachlan SPLASHES in the puddle. Bridget doesn't know how to react. Shannon, Quinn, and Connor laugh.

Lachlan's face is now red, and he is soaked from landing in the water.

BRIDGET  
Quinn, why would ya do that?

Quinn grabs Bridget roughly by the elbow, and starts pulling her.

QUINN  
He had it comin'. Let's go Bridge,  
or we will be late.

BRIDGET  
Give me a second!

QUINN  
Fine, but I ain't gonna be late!

The bell RINGS again. Bridget is holding a wet calculus book. Lachlan stands up with the rest of his books, which are also wet. Bridget hands the wet calculus book to Lachlan, as Quinn starts to walk into the school.

BRIDGET  
I'm sorry.

LACHLAN  
Yeah. Thanks.

QUINN  
(yells)  
Bridge!

BRIDGET  
I gotta go.

QUINN  
(yells)  
Bridge!

Bridget turns around and walks over to Quinn who glares at Lachlan. Quinn puts his arm around Bridget, and they walk into the school.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Lachlan enters the school. As he walks down the locker and student filled corridor, he DRIPS water onto the floor. People point and laugh at him. Even the nerds.

He arrives at his locker, opens it, and a fake witch's head jumps out. It scares Lachlan. He YELLS, and everyone laughs. Connor does an impression of him for Quinn, the girls, and the rest of the rugby team. People start laughing harder.

Lachlan SLAMS his locker shut. The bell RINGS.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - LATER

Lachlan sits at a desk towards the back of the class. Quinn, Shannon, Bridget, and a spitball shooting Connor have seats behind him. Shannon and Quinn laugh as the spitballs hit Lachlan.

The teacher MRS. O'SULLIVAN(40's) walks around and hands back students' graded final exams. She is an exotic mixed race woman with blue eyes. Her dark hair is in a bob style.

As Mrs. O'Sullivan approaches, Connor hides the straw he is using for the spitballs. She puts down Connor's exam in front of him, and he sees a "D". Quinn looks down and sees a "D+". Shannon gets a "C", and glares at Mrs. O'Sullivan.

Finally, Bridget gets her exam. She got a "B+". Mrs. O'Sullivan approaches Lachlan's desk. She places Lachlan's exam in front of him.

MRS. O'SULLIVAN  
Well done Lachlan.

Lachlan looks down and sees that he got an "A+".

MRS. O'SULLIVAN  
Ya received the only A in the class.

CONNOR  
(coughs)  
Amadán!

The entire class laughs.

LACHLAN  
Way to be original!

MRS. O'SULLIVAN  
That's enough Mr. Walsh. Ya too Mr. O'Malley.

CONNOR  
Aye Mrs. O'Sullivan.

Lachlan nods.

LACHLAN  
Aye Mrs. O'Sullivan.

The final bell of the day RINGS. Everyone in the class but Lachlan CHEERS. The students start to gather their things.

MRS. O'SULLIVAN  
Congratulations to everyone! Have a great summer. May yer futures be filled with adventure!

The students begin to leave. As Lachlan puts his things together, Quinn approaches him.

QUINN  
Ya may be goin' to Oxford, but you'll always be a failure. I mean how big of an amadán do ya have to be to have yer own father run out on ya?

Connor walks by and SLAPS Quinn with a high five. He walks up to Bridget and Shannon who are already standing at the door. Mrs. O'Sullivan notices Quinn bending over Lachlan speaking to him in an intense manner.

MRS. O'SULLIVAN  
(loudly)  
Gentleman, is everythin' okay?

Quinn turns around purposely, so that his backpack hits Lachlan's head. He smiles at Mrs. O'Sullivan.

QUINN  
Aye Mrs. O'Sullivan. I was just wishin' Lachlan a happy summer.

Quinn then walks to the door where Shannon, Connor, and Bridget wait for him. They exit. Mrs. O'Sullivan approaches Lachlan.

MRS. O'SULLIVAN  
Ignore 'em Lachlan. They are just intimidated by ya because ya are, and always have been, special. Yer use of prose is unlike any student or author I've ever read. Ya have a gift Lachlan.

LACHLAN  
Thank ya, but I rather fit in than be special.

MRS. O'SULLIVAN  
Trust me, there's no such thing as normal.

(MORE)

MRS. O'SULLIVAN (CONT'D)

But there are a few humans who easily excel where others fail. Yer one of those people.

LACHLAN

So, because I'm talented, I get bullied?

MRS. O'SULLIVAN

It will prepare ya for yer future. I knew ya were exceptional the first time I read one of yer essays. Ya have a gift Lachlan. Don't let some stupid jackeens make ya think otherwise.

LACHLAN

Thanks Mrs. O'Sullivan.

MRS. O'SULLIVAN

Anytime Lachlan.

Lachlan gets up and starts walking out the classroom door.

MRS. O'SULLIVAN

See ya at graduation tonight?

Lachlan nods and then exits.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - AFTERNOON

Lachlan walks down a country road, carries his journal, listens to his music through his headphones, and kicks a rock. There is a very large puddle next to him.

In the distance is a mountain range with an ominous old castle. The fog begins to roll in.

Connor, Quinn, and the girls drive by. Connor guns it, so that they can SPLASH Lachlan with water. They then turn down another road.

Their laughter ECHOES.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - LATER

Lachlan walks up a mountain road with huge trees on either side. A large bird that looks like a hawk is flies in the air above. Its CRIES are deafening, but beautiful. The castle looms ahead.

The clouds are low. So low that it's almost as though they dance with the trees that line the path. Lachlan grabs a huge stick on the ground and uses it as a walking stick. The town looks so small behind him.

Lachlan sees the legs of a deer ahead on the path. Then it vanishes into the clouds.

EXT. CASTLE - LATER

Lachlan arrives at the castle. The castle is so tall that it appears to touch the sun. It's a worn grey with wild ivy growing all over the walls. There is a dried-up well, and a rusted drawbridge.

Wildflowers surround the castle. Huge trees have grown right up to the walls. The trees have grown everywhere except a small clearing that overlooks the town below. In the distance a BABBLING brook is heard.

Lachlan comes to a tree by the clearing, and sits underneath. He looks and can barely make out the town below as the fog engulfs it. Lachlan takes his pipe out of his pocket, lights it, and begins to smoke.

Next, he opens his journal, feels the wind on his face, begins to write, and bobs his head along to the MUSIC. The music fades out. As he writes the voice over begins.

LACHLAN (V.O.)

Have ya ever wondered if there was more to life then what meets the eye? Ever since I can remember, I have been fascinated with fantasy, wishin' that it was real and that life wasn't so leadránach. Me mum used to tell me stories when I was young about a strange world with all sorts of creatures. She said me father told her the stories before he took off. The stories she told me were so vivid I could literally picture everythin'. Because of those stories I started writin'. I guess that's why I write in ya. Whether it's tales, poems, or journal entries, I'm always writin' in ya. She says I got me gift from me father, but who knows. All I know is that it was me writin' that got me a scholarship to university, not me father's. As a matter of fact, I'm nothin' like him. I'd never abandon me wife and...

The wind stops. Lachlan stops, looks up and takes his headphones off. Everything is eerie, calm, and quiet. Dark clouds roll in quickly, there is a sudden lightning strike, and the ground shakes. Lachlan begins to panic and YELL.

Lachlan hears a RUMBLING from above, looks up, and is hit by a small falling boulder. His journal falls off the cliff along with the boulder. The ground opens up a portal below him, and swallows Lachlan's unconscious body.

As the fog moves towards the portal, it engulfs it as well. Before the portal closes, the outline of a bird and deer jump through it. The portal closes.

Lachlan seems to be lying in the same spot where he lost consciousness.

He slowly opens his eyes and begins to make out figures through the fog. As his eyes begin to focus, the figures become sharper.

He lifts his body up, and rubs the back of his head. He winces due to the head pain the boulder caused him when it hit him. He starts to walk towards the figures while he rubs his head. He sees ten foot tall Giants, men with pointed ears and hooked noses, women with wings and wreaths on their heads, men with long silver beards that are talking to animals, and others.

Lachlan stares in awe, and when he realizes what he sees turns and runs. While he runs, he turns his head to look back, and runs right into what he thinks is a wild horse. Lachlan falls to the floor and looks up.

Lachlan sees a centaur and YELLS. ATLAS THE CENTAUR(39) is half-man half-horse. His human half is muscular with olive skin. He has dark hair and dark eyes, and his horse half matches his hair color. He is a warrior, and carries himself as such.

Atlas has a ruby amulet that hangs around his neck, wears a brown leather vest, and falconry glove. Atlas stares down at Lachlan.

ATLAS  
Ah, there ya are.

LACHLAN  
(panicked)  
Who are ya? What do ya want? Where am I?

A sweet smile spreads over Atlas's face.

ATLAS  
It's alright, ye're okay. I'm Atlas the centaur, and ye're still at the castle Lachlan O'Malley, only a different realm. We like to call this realm "The Garden."

Atlas gestures to the creatures walking around the outside of the castle. Lachlan begins to laugh uncontrollably as he gets up.

LACHLAN  
This is a joke! I'm bein' punk'd, or I'm dreamin'. I'll wake up any second.  
(beat)  
Come on Lachlan, wake up!

ATLAS  
Yer very awake Lachlan, and this is in no way a joke. I know that this is a bit of a shock, but in due time you'll calm down.



LACHLAN

Calm down! Calm down! How can I calm down, when one second I'm writin' in me journal, and the next I'm talkin' to some weird human that looks like one of Frankenstein's experiments?

ATLAS

Okay understood, but haven't ya, on some level, always known that there was somethin' else out there? Hasn't it become almost a, shall I say, obsession?

LACHLAN

Aye, but it's different to hope somethin' is true, then... wait how did ya know about that?

ATLAS

There isn't much about ya I don't know young O'Malley.

LACHLAN

And how do ya know me name!

ATLAS

I'll explain everythin' in time. That is once ya've had time to adjust.

LACHLAN

No! I want to know why everythin' is different. I was just sittin' here and then there was an earthquake. What happened?! If ya don't tell me I swear to God I'll... I'll....

Lachlan lunges at Atlas, and Atlas quickly, without any hesitation or trouble, puts him on the ground. He steps on Lachlan's chest with one hoof.

ATLAS

Okay! Okay! But next time ya threaten someone, Lachlan, make sure ya can make good on yer threat.

(beat)

Can I help ya up?

Atlas takes his hoof off of Lachlan. Lachlan gives his hand to Atlas, and Atlas pulls him to his feet. Atlas rubs the amulet around his neck and begins to whisper under his breath.

A floating, translucent orb appears in between Atlas and Lachlan. Lachlan GASPS in astonishment, and looks behind him as if he plans to run.

ATLAS  
 Look into the orb dear boy, and all  
 of yer questions will be answered.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Lachlan gazes into the orb and sees himself at his mother's house. He's at the kitchen table.

Lachlan then watches himself lock eyes with Bridget. They laugh and smile at each other. Quinn walks up and punches Lachlan.

Lachlan sits in class and talks to Mrs. O'Sullivan. She appears to really care about him.

Lachlan walks up the path, and sees the deer. As the orb focuses on the deer he realizes it's Atlas.

Lachlan is about to say something, but Atlas is too quick.

ATLAS  
 Not yet young one... watch.

Lachlan sits on the cliff. He sees the earth begin to quake. He is hit by a boulder, the earth opens a portal, and swallows him.

Lachlan focuses on Atlas. He stands in the spot from which Lachlan had disappeared. The portal is still open. Atlas rubs his amulet, and then jumps into the portal.

Lachlan sees himself reappear in the same spot. Only now, there are creatures around him and they are the same weird creatures that he sees around him now.

BACK TO SCENE

ATLAS  
 Ya see Lachlan, I was with ya the  
 whole time, although I must say  
 that boulder hittin' ya was quite  
 unfortunate.

The orb POPS like a bubble and disappears. Lachlan rubs the back of his head where the rock hit him.

LACHLAN  
 I'll say.

ATLAS  
 I'm sorry about what happened at  
 school. I wanted to intervene, but  
 couldn't. I couldn't risk revealin'  
 this world.

LACHLAN  
 And why should I trust ya?

Atlas grabs Lachlan's left wrist tightly and pushes up his sleeve. On the inside of his wrist is a very detailed birthmark. It's the symbol of the double-headed eagle.

LACHLAN  
What are ya doin'?

ATLAS  
Yer birthmark. It's not only a birthmark, but the symbol of the double-headed eagle.

LACHLAN  
But it's just a mark.

ATLAS  
The symbol of the double-headed eagle is a powerful one. It represents the sun, power, authority, victory, and all that's good in the world.

LACHLAN  
How do ya know all of this?

ATLAS  
Because Lachlan, I have one too.

Atlas shows his mark.

ATLAS  
Ya see, we were destined to meet, to be confidants, partners, and even friends. Ask Yerself Lachlan, how many people have the same birthmark in the exact same place?

As Atlas finishes, a bird's CRY is heard in the near distance. PHOENIX THE FALCON(42) can be seen as he flies towards them above the trees.

Phoenix is a very large falcon who looks as though his feathers are made of silk. Lachlan hears the bird CRY and looks up.

LACHLAN  
I... I recognize that hawk, I saw it while I was hikin' up to the castle.

Phoenix comes and lands on Atlas's back.

ATLAS  
Yer quite right about recognizin' the bird Lachlan. Only he is not a hawk. Allow me to introduce Phoenix The Falcon.

LACHLAN  
(sarcastic)  
Nice name.

ATLAS  
His parents thought they would give  
him a nice wee identity crisis.

Phoenix nips Atlas.

LACHLAN  
I don't think he liked that. Ya'd  
think he would be over it by now.

ATLAS  
I like to give him a hard time.  
What can I say? It's too good of an  
opportunity to ignore.

LACHLAN  
I guess.

Atlas looks up at the sun and sees that it's in the middle of  
the sky.

ATLAS  
Look at the sun! It's almost mid-  
day, we must hurry and begin if  
we're gonna get everythin' covered  
by nightfall.

Phoenix takes flight and Atlas walks next to him towards the  
castle. Lachlan stands still.

ATLAS  
We don't have all day!

LACHLAN  
Me mum's gonna kill me.  
(yells)  
Hey! Wait for me!

Lachlan runs next to Atlas and they disappear behind the  
castle walls.

INT. CHAILYA CASTLE - COURTYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Atlas, Lachlan, and Phoenix walk over the drawbridge and  
enter a courtyard where all sorts of creatures walk the  
streets. Some of the creatures stop to look at Lachlan's  
unusual clothes.

There are shops on either side filled with odd items. Some of  
the signs for the shops read "Prunella's Discount Cauldrons",  
"Landry's Magical Medicine", "Fox's Robe Emporium", and  
"Atlantis's Lost Books".

Lachlan looks around in wonder.

LACHLAN  
What is this place?

ATLAS

Welcome to Chailya Castle. The metropolis of magic. Anythin' ya need will be here, and if it's not, then ya simply go to Lucian's Square of Air at the end of this block...

(points down a street)

Think of it, and it will appear. For a price of course.

LACHLAN

Wicked.

ATLAS

Now come, let us get ya rested. I reserved a room at The Dragon's Head lodge until the castle is ready for us.

LACHLAN

What do ya mean ready for us?

ATLAS

I told ya we have been expectin' ya, and everythin' else you'll find out -- now come. Phoenix will fly ahead to let 'em know we will be arrivin'.

Phoenix takes flight, and Atlas begins to walk down a crowded street. Lachlan follows. As he walks, Lachlan looks at every creature and store with bewilderment in his eyes.

EXT. DRAGON'S HEAD LODGE - LATER

A small brick building with a wooden door and a green Dragon's head above is lodged between two others. In its windows one of the stores has statues of people screaming in pain, while the other displays knives, swords, and bows and arrows.

Two fat, bearded, drunk twin warlocks named LUDLOW(38) and LYNCH(38) fly out of the wooden door. They land with a PLUNK on the floor, and begin to punch each other.

MADAME LUANA(36) follows them out. She is a tall sultry woman with olive skin, and rosy cheeks, She has black hair with thick grey streaks around her face.

Madame Luana wears a black dress, with a white apron. Her black, open robe's long train has real blue flames at the tip. A pink kunzite and white gold amulet hangs around her neck.

MADAME LUANA

And don't ya come back ya lousy good-for-nothings! If I catch ya in here again, I swear I'll curse yer mouths shut, cut off yer arms and make ya feed 'emto each other.

(MORE)

MADAME LUANA (CONT'D)

Yer mum would be turnin' over in her grave if she knew what ya two turned out like. Oh and say hi to yer wives for me. God bless those two for puttin' up with the likes of ya.

Madame Luana goes to turn back in, but Atlas and Lachlan catch her eye.

MADAME LUANA

Well, it's about time Atlas ya had us worried sick.

ATLAS

(laughs)

I see Ludlow and Lynch are up to their old tricks. Ya must admit, they keep ya busy.

MADAME LUANA

Busy? Ya see these grey streaks?

Madame Luana points to the streaks in her hair.

MADAME LUANA

Before I met 'em they weren't there!

ATLAS

Oh come now, Luana they are not that bad. Did ya ever think to cut those two off?

MADAME LUANA

Aye, but Ludlow and Lynch keep me in business, so I just threaten 'em instead.

ATLAS

(laughing still)

A lot of good that did. Also, can ya explain to me how they would feed each other with no arms? It's like when me mum used to tell me to shut me mouth and eat me food! It's physically impossible.

Suddenly Lachlan begins to laugh.

MADAME LUANA

Well they get the idea.

(beat)

This boy must be starvin' and tired. Come. Brin' him in, and I'll put the kettle on. Phoenix has already eaten, and has retired to his quarters.

Madame Luana turns and goes in. Lachlan looks down at Ludlow and Lynch, who laugh and help each other up.

LACHLAN  
Who was that? Who are they? And  
what was that about?

ATLAS  
That me dear boy was Madame Luana.  
There isn't a tougher witch, but  
she makes a mean pheasant stew. And  
those two are Ludlow and Lynch.  
Let's just say those two keep her  
busy, and they keep us entertained.

EXT. ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

Ludlow and Lynch walk down the street, then one shoves the  
other into an alley, they disappear, and a PLUNK is heard.

EXT. DRAGON'S HEAD LODGE - MOMENTS LATER

Lachlan cracks a smile, and then looks at Atlas.

LACHLAN  
They remind me of me cousins who  
I'm never allowed to talk about or  
see.

ATLAS  
They remind us all of relatives  
we're not allowed or too ashamed of  
to talk to.

The door to the lodge opens again, and Madame Luana pops out.

MADAME LUANA  
Atlas brin' that poor boy in before  
he catches his death of cold!

Madame Luana turns back around.

MADAME LUANA  
I swear men are useless! If we  
didn't need 'em to procreate, then  
we wouldn't need 'em at all.

Madame Luana looks Atlas up and down, and goes back inside.

ATLAS  
Come on in. I promise I won't let  
anythin' happen to ya.

Atlas pushes Lachlan forward, and they disappear into the  
lodge.

INT. DRAGON'S HEAD LODGE - PARLOR - CONTINUOUS

Lachlan and Atlas enter the dimly lit pub. Candles are on  
every table with flames that look like wee castles.

The fireplace burns with fire that has the shape of a Dragon's head breathing flames.

At the dusty tables sit Cyclops, Wizards, Dwarves, and Giants. There's a piano in the corner playing an upbeat MELODY, but no pianist at the bench.

Madame Luana is behind the bar. She's in the middle of an argument with an old, bitter looking Dwarf.

MADAME LUANA

I told ya! Only a pinch of wormwood. Ya used at least two! Are ya tryin' to kill someone? This entire batch is ruined. Yer pay will be docked. Now, go start over

The Dwarf nods and goes back into the kitchen. Lachlan and Atlas approach Madame Luana.

MADAME LUANA

Well, don't just stand there Atlas, go over to a table, unless ya want the boy to eat standin' up!

Madame Luana walks into the kitchen, and Lachlan and Atlas go to a table near the fire. Lachlan sits.

LACHLAN

I don't think she likes ya very much.

ATLAS

We have a complicated history. Besides, this is her bein' nice. But don't worry. Her bark is worse than her bite.

(beat)

Usually.

Lachlan looks around at the lodge. Then back at Atlas.

LACHLAN

What's with all the Dragons??

ATLAS

(quietly)

She is the last of the Dragon whisperers. It's a very rare, and respected gift, that allows whomever has it to control any Dragon they encounter.

LACHLAN

Why the last?



ATLAS

When we were children, Luana told me a story about how one of her grandfathers saved the Dragon King from a brutally violent and unjust death. In return he bestowed upon Luana's family the gift of bein' Dragon whisperers. It's passed through the blood. Only the Dragon King can honor anyone else with this rare, and very coveted gift. It's somethin' the Dragon King hasn't done since the day Luana's grandfather saved him. So, unfortunately if Luana doesn't procreate, the gift dies with her. A burden that weighs very heavily on her shoulders.

Lachlan looks at Madame Luana when she comes out of the kitchen. As she walks by the table, he stares down at her train. The fire on her train grows larger.

LACHLAN

Isn't she afraid she's gonna burn the lodge down with her train on fire like that?

ATLAS

She has more power, and control of her power, than even I do.

Luana looks down at her train and her eyes turn orange. The largest part of the fire on her train, detaches from the rest of the flames, splits into millions of tiny particles, and is absorbed by Luana's orange eyes as they glow.

The fire on her train has become small once again.

LACHLAN

Well then maybe she should be me escort.

Atlas looks sideways at Lachlan.

ATLAS

Has anyone ever told ya that ye're a... how do they say it in yer world? That ye're a smart ass??

Lachlan laughs.

LACHLAN

Um, Atlas, what about me mum? She'll worry where I am. Plus, I told her I'd be home at five.

ATLAS

Don't worry Lachlan. We have taken care of that. As far as she is concerned, ye're already at Oxford.

Three extremely hairy brunette men walk in named MAKANI(30), MARE(31), AND MIAKODĀ(29). They come to the fire and lay on the floor. Before Lachlan's eyes two of them change into wolves.

Makani sees Atlas and walks over. He wears a red rubellite and white gold amulet with black jade in the middle. When the light hits his eyes, they shimmer like green jade gem stones.

MAKANI  
(gravelly)  
Grr-ello Atlas.

ATLAS  
'ello Makani.

Makani sniffs the air, and GROWLS.

MAKANI  
(gravelly)  
Grrand ya've found the boy. Looks just like him.

LACHLAN  
Um, I'm sorry, but who and what are ya?

Makani sniffs again, and GROWLS.

MAKANI  
(gravelly)  
Same smell as well. I'm one of the few Shapeshifters left in this realm boy. Name's Makani.

LACHLAN  
(sarcastically)  
Of course, a shapeshifter, that makes sense. I'm sorry did ya say I looked like someone?

MAKANI  
(growls)  
Yer father!

Lachlan looks shocked.

LACHLAN  
Ya knew me father?

Makani BARKS.

MAKANI  
(gravelly)  
Wait, he didn't know?

ATLAS  
Way to put yer foot in it Mak.

MAKANI  
 (gravelly)  
 I'm grrreatly sorry Atlas, I didn't  
 mean to. I thought he knew.

ATLAS  
 No, he didn't. But I guess now is  
 as good a time as any to tell him.

GHOST (V.O.)  
 (whispers)  
 Coward.

Makani GROWLS, BARKS, and looks around fearfully.

ATLAS  
 Everythin' okay Mak?

The dwarf comes over with bowls of food, and leaves three of  
 them on the floor. Two of the wolves begin to eat, as they  
 lay by the fire. One of them lets out a GROWL, and Makani  
 turns to look. Makani GROWLS back.

MAKANI  
 (growls)  
 Grrrand. I just thought I heard  
 somethin'. Me food is here. Atlas,  
 once again, I'm sorry.

ATLAS  
 That's okay Makani. Go eat.

MAKANI  
 (gravelly)  
 Thank ya old friend.

Makani GROWLS.

MAKANI  
 (to Lachlan)  
 Lookin' forward to our next  
 encounter.

Makani walks over to the fire, sits and eats. The dwarf comes  
 over to Lachlan and Atlas with two bowls of pheasant stew,  
 then disappears.

LACHLAN  
 He's a bit of an odd duck.

ATLAS  
 Aye, well he has been through a  
 great deal in his short life.

LACHLAN  
 Like what?

ATLAS  
 Now isn't the time.

LACHLAN  
Then tell me about me father. I'm  
not eatin' a bite until ya tell me  
what ya know.

ATLAS  
Okay, okay. Long ago a boy was born  
to the King and Queen of Gershwig.

LACHLAN  
Gershwig?

ATLAS  
Gershwig is the name of this land.  
It spans as far north as the Morela  
mountains, as far south as the  
Adotte desert, East to the River of  
Sorrows, and west to the Dark Sea.

LACHLAN  
Okay.

Atlas waves his hands over the candle on the table, and the  
flames begin to change. Suddenly, the flames begin to act out  
Atlas's story as he speaks. Lachlan watches in awe.

The fire takes the shape of a NEWBORN BABY, a KING(45) and a  
QUEEN(40).

ATLAS  
A baby boy named Kyros was born, to  
the King and Queen. Their only  
child and an unexpected miracle  
because the Queen was supposedly  
barren.

The fire shows a WEE PRINCE KYROS(5) as he laughs.

ATLAS  
He was for less of a better word a  
mischief maker, but also a dreamer.

The fire becomes a wee Prince Kyros as he fences with the  
King.

Then it shows wee Prince Kyros on his hands and knees as he  
begs his parents.

ATLAS  
He grew up always writin',  
fightin', fencin', and beggin' his  
parents to send him to yer realm.

The fire shows a TEENAGE PRINCE KYROS(18) outside of Chailya  
Castle. A portal opens, and Teenage Prince Kyros jumps  
through.

The fire then takes the shape of Teenage Prince Kyros, and  
TEENAGE ABIGAIL(18). The fire shows them as they kiss.

## ATLAS

On Kyros's eighteenth birthday as customary for royalty he was sent to yer realm on a spiritual quest of wisdom and self discovery. The only problem was he found somethin' more. He found yer mum Abigail.

The fire takes the shape of Teenage Prince Kyros as he argues with his parents. It shows both the King and Queen shake their heads "no." Teenage Prince Kyros throws up his hands, and walks off hand and hand with Teenage Abigail.

## ATLAS

He fought his parents to stay, and they disagreed. They said he would be turnin' his back on his kingdom, and if he did this, then they would disown him. Prince Kyros was so in love with yer mum that he felt the end was justified. It broke the Queen's heart, and she lost her legendary lust for life.

The fire takes the shape of BABY LACHLAN. It quickly changes to the Queen dead in her bed. The fire becomes a heart shape. The heart then shatters.

## ATLAS

A year later yer mum gave birth to ya. It was the happiest day of yer father's life. Shortly thereafter the Queen died of her broken heart.

The fire takes the shape of a crippled King as he sits on his throne. It then changes to the King in his bedroom as he takes a pill. He falls down dead on his bedroom floor.

## ATLAS

The King tried to rule without her, but was so crippled by grief he was unable to. He was later found dead in his chambers. The rumor mill has stated that he poisoned himself, but no one really knows.

The fire then takes the shape of Teenage Prince Kyros, as he walks away from Teenage Abigail. She holds young Lachlan in her arms.

## ATLAS

Yer father felt so guilty over their deaths, that he gave up his happiness, ya and yer mum, to come and live here, and take his proper birthright as king.

The fire shows Teenage Prince Kyros, as he is crowned King. The fire then returns to its original form.

LACHLAN

So are ya tellin' me that me father  
is in the castle as we speak, and  
that he never left me by choice,  
but rather guilt?

ATLAS

Well yes and no. Prince Kyros had  
to leave partly because of guilt  
over his parents' death. He knew  
that the only way he could make  
amends was by rulin' the kingdom,  
because that's what his parents  
would have wanted. Yer father also  
felt a sense of obligation, because  
if he didn't take his rightful  
place on the throne... well let's  
just say this kingdom would be a  
lot different. But yer father is  
not in the castle at the moment,  
and that's all I'll say for now.  
Now eat up.

Lachlan begins to eat in a mechanical way, and Atlas lights a pipe that he begins to smoke. The smoke takes the shape of a leprechaun who dances and after a few moments Atlas hears a THUMP and notices Lachlan is fast asleep on the table.

Madame Luana appears.

MADAME LUANA

I figured I'd put some chamomile  
and lavender, actually a lot of  
chamomile and lavender, in his  
stew. I wanted to help him calm  
down and rest.

ATLAS

I know ya better then that Luana.  
Is that all ya put in there?

MADAME LUANA

Okay I might have put a few dashes  
of mugwort in there as well.  
Lachlan needs to sleep Atlas. After  
all, it's not every day that a  
person is faced with the truth that  
their world isn't the only one.

ATLAS

We should put him to bed.

MADAME LUANA

Follow me.

Atlas's rubs his amulet and it begins to float. Suddenly, Lachlan begins to float in the air as well and follow Madame Luana.

Atlas smiles at Makani, who GROWLS back at Atlas as he continues to eat.

Atlas then follows Lachlan's seemingly lifeless body up the stone stairs. They stop at a painting of a hallway.

Madame Luana MUTTERS, and then walks through the portrait. Lachlan and Atlas follow.

INT. DRAGON'S HEAD LODGE - HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

The hall has low vaulted ceilings and candles that float with flames in the shape of Dragons. There are suits of armor, as well as portraits that line the hallway.

Most of the people and creatures in the portraits are asleep and don't move, while others whisper back and forth.

Madame Luana walks in front of Lachlan as his body floats. Lachlan releases loud SNORTS every few steps. Atlas brings up the rear, he keeps his amulet in midair in order to keep Lachlan steady and afloat.

MADAME LUANA

(whispers)

Have ya told him why he's here?

ATLAS

No, he was shocked enough findin' out who his father was. I didn't want him to completely crack up. I figured I'd let him recover somewhat, and then tell him. Bit by bit.

MADAME LUANA

But Atlas, there isn't much time.

ATLAS

I know Luana, I know.

MADAME LUANA

I set up some extra security. Ya should be safe for the night, but only the night Atlas.

(beat)

I'm serious!

ATLAS

The castle will be ready tomorrow.

MADAME LUANA

Good.

Madame Luana walks by a suit of armor on a pedestal named ARTHUR(76), who drops its axe, and it nearly hits Lachlan's foot. He then steps off the pedestal and blocks Luana's path.

MADAME LUANA

Whoops, I forgot about that. It's okay Arthur. They're with me.

ARTHUR  
Password.

MADAME LUANA  
Arthur I said...

ARTHUR  
Password.

Arthur raises his ax, and is about to bring it down.

MADAME LUANA  
Fine. Camelot.

ARTHUR  
Enter.

Arthur moves his axe and lets them pass. He then takes his spot on his pedestal against the wall again.

ATLAS  
Arthur? Camelot? Now Luana, ya can be more original then that.

MADAME LUANA  
What? It was me favorite book as a child. Besides, that's why it's so brilliant. No one will think of it because it's so obvious.

They arrive at two portraits at the end of the hall. One has a MAN IN CHAINS(56), whose eyes follow Atlas as he moves. The ghost in chains exits the portrait after they all pass.

The ghost dives under ground, appears behind Atlas, and tries to choke him with his enchanted chains. Madame Luana turns around, and throws an energy bubble. The bubble surrounds most of the ghost. It shocks it with something purple.

The ghost immediately SHRIEKS and releases, Atlas. Atlas GASPS for breath as Lachlan SNORES. Madame Luana escorts the bubble back to the painting. The bubble seals the painting shut.

The ghost tries to leave the painting. The cover that was created by the bubble won't let them. The ghost SHRIEKS louder.

MADAME LUANA  
Casper!

The other painting has a WOMAN IN A FIELD(45). She begins SINGING at such a high pitch that it brings both Luana and Atlas to their knees. Luana throws an energy ball and the woman in the painting is MUTED.

MADAME LUANA  
Hush up! Both of ya!



MADAME LUANA

Yer both morons. If I'm with the guests, then they aren't a threat. Ya were put here in case someone got past me. Now, hush! The boy is asleep.

WOMAN IN A FIELD

Sorry Madame.

Madame Luana grabs the candle next to the Man In Chains and a door appears.

MADAME LUANA

This way. And hurry.

Atlas and Lachlan's body follow.

This hallway has indentations in the shape of amulets along the walls, as well as suits of armor.

ATLAS

Luana, what would have happened if we went through the portraits?

MADAME LUANA

(shrugs)

A quick death, or a long death.

ATLAS

Ye're a wee bit scary sometimes ya know that?

MADAME LUANA

Isn't that what ya used to like about me?

Madame Luana, Atlas, and Lachlan continue on. They arrive at a dusty indentation behind a suit of armor.

MADAME LUANA

Ah... Here we're.

ATLAS

Let me guess? Gwenivere?

MADAME LUANA

No. There is no password. For someone who is supposed to be a scholar ye're pretty dimwitted sometimes. This is where I leave ya Atlas. Once I put me amulet in the lock you'll be taken in. I, however, will not. It's part of the security I installed. Only people stayin' in the room can enter. Atlas, I'd stay awake if I were ya, just to be safe.

ATLAS

I'm way ahead of ya.

Atlas gives a quick wave of his hand, and a bottle that floats appears. He quickly drinks it.

ATLAS  
That should keep me awake until we  
arrive at the castle.

MADAME LUANA  
Ready?

ATLAS  
Ready.

Madame Luana puts her amulet up to the indentation, and turns it. A doorway appears, and then a bright, blinding light. Atlas and Lachlan are sucked through the key hole and vanish.

Luana is alone in the hallway. She turns and walks towards the lounge. Luana stops. Listens. Eye lids close.

INT. HELZARIE - CASTLE TOWER - DAY [FLASHBACK]

Nothing but fire and the QUEEN BANSHEE(40's) are visible. She looks beautiful as the fire dances off of her spirit-like body. As the fire burns it continues to illuminate her grotesque face. Her skin is almost completely rotted away.

The Queen Banshee has long fangs. Her ghostly white hair is blowing even though there is no wind.

QUEEN BANSHEE  
(raspy laugh)  
She's coming...!

The Queen Banshee SHRIEKS.

INT. DRAGON'S HEAD LODGE - HALLWAYS - NIGHT

Luana's eye lids open. Her entire body gets the chills. She collects herself, and then exists the way she came.

DREAM SEQUENCE - INT. FONDONT CAVES - TUNNEL - NIGHT

Lachlan stands in a dark tunnel. He runs down the tunnel and looks behind him with every other step. He comes to a cavern in the tunnel. There are huge Cyclops, Goblins, and Wendigos building a castle in the cavern.

A Goblin looks at Lachlan and starts to charge.

INT. FONDONT CAVES - DARK HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lachlan then flees down a dark hallway lit by balls of fire, each in the shape of a single eye. There are shackles on the walls and skeletons on the floor.

There is a gate at the end of the hallway. Lachlan runs towards the gate. He hears a voice.

VOICE (O.S.)  
Lachlan! Help me! Lachlan! Help me  
please! Lachlan!

Lachlan arrives at the gate, and throws open the door. Something jumps on top of him. All Lachlan sees are two red eyes that glow.

INT. DRAGON'S HEAD LODGE - BEDROOM - DAWN

The bedroom is covered with dust and cobwebs. There is one bed against a wall that has a large Dragon's head above. Out of the Dragon's mouth is a mosquito net with holes made by moths. The net covers the bed.

The sheets look old and worn. Atlas stands by the window. He smokes his pipe. Each time Atlas breathes out, the smoke takes the shape of a magical creature.

The fireplace is lit. The fire in the fireplace takes the shape of a Dragon as it flies. Lachlan lies in bed fast asleep. He sweats profusely. Lachlan SCREAMS as he suddenly awakens. Atlas runs over.

ATLAS  
Lachlan! What's wrong? What  
happened?

Lachlan calms down and looks around the room for the source of the voice. As his eyes begin to acclimate to the dark, Atlas comes into focus.

LACHLAN  
(calms down)  
Nothin'. Bad dream.

ATLAS  
Ye're sure?

LACHLAN  
Yes.  
(beat)  
What time is it?

Atlas looks out the window and sees the sun as it rises behind a distant mountain.

ATLAS  
Nearly daybreak. We should get ya  
some food and be on our way. We  
have much to do today, and who  
knows how long we will be at  
Elwin's?

LACHLAN  
But it's so early...

Lachlan gets out of bed, and puts his shoes on.

ATLAS  
Come Lachlan, and stay close.

Atlas and Lachlan walk out the bedroom door.

EXT. DRAGON'S HEAD LODGE - LATER

Atlas and Lachlan emerge from the front door. The sun has just risen and is painting colors across the sky.

LACHLAN  
(stretches)  
I didn't even wake up this early  
for school.  
(yawns)  
So, where to?

ATLAS  
Elwin's Amulet Garden.

LACHLAN  
Why?

Atlas begins to walk and Lachlan follows.

ATLAS  
To do magic of course.

LACHLAN  
But I don't know how.

ATLAS  
It's in yer blood. I'll teach ya  
some, and the rest ya already  
inherently know how to do. Ya were  
born with a magical gift that has  
been passed down through gener-  
ations. Every soul that has lineage  
from this realm is blessed with  
this gift. It will come to ya, if  
ya just embrace who ya are.

LACHLAN  
Easier said than done.

ATLAS  
It will come to ya. Just keep an  
open mind. Now, make haste.

Atlas begins to trot down a street. Lachlan rolls his eyes and begins to run after him.

EXT. ELWIN'S AMULET GARDEN - LATER

Atlas and Lachlan arrive at a dead end with a giant redwood in the middle of the street. Carved and written onto the trunk in beautiful gold is "Elwin's Amulet Garden."

LACHLAN  
Is this it? It's kind of  
disappointin'.

ATLAS  
Don't judge a book by its cover  
Lachlan. You'll be surprised to  
learn that in this world  
especially, everythin' isn't what  
meets the eye. Ya see that branch?

Atlas points to a branch that hangs lower than the other  
branches.

ATLAS  
Pull down on it.

Lachlan pulls down on the branch and a door magically appears  
and opens.

ATLAS  
After ya.

Lachlan, with an amused look, walks through the small door  
and Atlas follows.

INT. ELWIN'S AMULET GARDEN - TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

Lachlan walks through a small wooden tunnel lit by fireworks  
frozen in mid-explosion. He sees a light ahead and quickens  
his pace. Atlas follows with a slight smirk on his face.

INT. ELWIN'S AMULET GARDEN - FOREST - DAY

Lachlan arrives at the end of the hallway where the it opens.  
Before Lachlan's eyes is a huge forest within the tree. In  
one section there is every kind of tree imaginable.

In another section there is every kind of precious stone in  
beautiful glass bowls, followed by every kind of metal  
suspended in midair. Then Lachlan sees a giant corral with  
phoenixes, unicorns, griffins, and Pegasus's.

Finally, against the furthestmost wall he observes a small  
wooden desk with an elf behind it. ELWIN THE BLIND ELF(40's)  
is of normal height for an Elf, is black, and has pointed  
ears.

His eyes are a light blue, with a white hue that covers them.  
One would never guess he was blind due to the way he moves  
around the garden, and is aware of everything. He is dressed  
in maroon and brown robes that drag on the floor as he walks.

He has long braided dark brown hair with a gold wreath atop  
his head. Elwin begins to walk towards Lachlan and Atlas, but  
he moves so smoothly that it seems as though he walks on air.

ATLAS  
'ello Elwin.

ELWIN  
Atlas! Good to see ya, and good to see ya as well Lachlan.

LACHLAN  
Excuse me for askin', but aren't ya blind?

ELWIN  
Yes Lachlan, but just because I'm blind doesn't mean I can't see. If anythin', I can sense and see more than most. I should say ye're much more handsome than yer father described.

LACHLAN  
Um, thanks I guess.

ATLAS  
Elwin is the elf who owns this place.

ELWIN  
Come Lachlan, we should get started.

Lachlan and Atlas follow Elwin over to the forest.

ELWIN  
Now Lachlan, a great deal goes into makin' an amulet. A bein's soul is made from the earth. Different portions of the earth represent different personalities, dreams, powers and strengths. It's the center of all yer magic. Unfortunately, you'll not be able to choose yer amulet. It will create itself, with simply the touch of yer hand. There are several steps, and each step is just as important as the last.

Elwin leads Lachlan to a clearing in the center of the trees.

ELWIN  
Now, Atlas and I'll leave ya. You'll see the Dryads come out of the trees and they will begin to encircle ya.

LACHLAN  
The Drya-whats?

ELWIN  
They are female spirits who are born with and live inside the trees. Each tree has a different spirit, and they protect and watch over the forest.

(MORE)

ELWIN (CONT'D)

They are very wise and will choose the proper wood for yer amulet.

LACHLAN

Why do I need wood though?

ELWIN

Wood represents yer lineage and roots. Now, when the Dryads come, stay calm. It will only last a few moments.

(beat)

Atlas?

Elwin walks away and Atlas follows him. Lachlan stands alone surrounded by trees. He feels a gust of wind and sees some leaves blow. Then all at once beautiful, translucent women fly towards him from every direction.

Their hair is made from leaves and flowers, and they have light green eyes that make one calm with a single look. Lachlan stands his ground as they circle him.

The Dryads look Lachlan up and down, and then they each reach out a hand and touch him. There is a bright light and they vanish.

At Lachlan's feet is a branch from a tree. Elwin walks towards Lachlan, and Atlas is behind him. Elwin bends down, picks up the wood, and runs his fingers over it.

ELWIN

Ah, oak. A very strong wood. The same wood that they chose for yer father if I'm not mistaken. Now come, there is still more to be done.

Lachlan follows Elwin and Atlas over to the glass bowls filled with semi-precious stones.

ELWIN

What month were ya born?

LACHLAN

April.

ELWIN

Well, then ya have two birthstones. Yer modern birthstone is a diamond and yer mystical birthstone is an opal. It's curious isn't it, Atlas?

Lachlan is mesmerized by the stones in front of him.

LACHLAN

Sorry, but what's curious?

ELWIN

Both of yer stones are white or clear. I should have guessed.

LACHLAN  
I'm sorry, but can ya elaborate?

ELWIN  
White is associated with protection, purification, purity and peace. It symbolizes the moon, freshness and cold. White contains all colors. Therefore yer destiny, yer trip here, was written when ya were born. Ya were chosen to be a leader, a ruler, a protector. For only those with pure hearts, who are cunnin', and stand up and lead can have these two birth-stones. It's also interestin' that yer two birthstones are also the hardest and softest gems. They are complete yin and yang. They balance each other. At the same time, each stone tells me so much about who ya are. The diamond tells me that ye're not easily broken. The opal tells me that ya have a softer side. It also tells me that ya have a burnin' in yer soul, and that there is more inside ya than meets the eye.

Elwin winks at Lachlan as if the blind man sees right through him. He then taps two of the bowls, and a diamond and opal appear. They then wrap themselves in a silk bag in midair.

Elwin grabs the bag and continues on. He approaches the metal suspended in midair and a leprechaun named DEVLIN(43) pops out.

Devlin is short with fiery red hair, and a wooden pipe in his back pocket. He wears clothing made of moss, and carries a wooden staff that has animal heads whittled onto it.

Lachlan begins to look around. He sees rainbows everywhere, and each rainbow ends at a different metal.

DEVLIN  
Git away from me loot.

ELWIN  
Ya know the rules Devlin. If ya don't do yer job yer family will be cursed poor and starvin' .  
(to Lachlan)  
Devlin's family was caught robbin' other leprechauns of their riches. So, yer ancestors chose as punishment to have his family give up their riches for others' amulets, as well as to work in service to the crown.

DEVLIN  
Gran'! Brin' de fella.



Elwin walks forward and Lachlan follows. Elwin stops in front of just the slightest mist of a rainbow that is in the center of all the metals.

ELWIN  
Go ahead Lachlan. Please take yer place in the rainbow.

Lachlan does as he is told.

ELWIN  
Go ahead Devlin. We're waitin'.

Devlin BANGS his staff down three times and the rainbows get brighter. Suddenly five pieces of metal detach from different chunks of metal and float over to Lachlan on different transparent rainbows.

DEVLIN  
Me loot! Why yer wee! Yer man tricked me, he did.

ELWIN  
That is enough Devlin, although I must say this is odd. Most people only get one metal and ya received five. Five is a very magical number Lachlan. There are five points on the pentagram, as well as five fingers on a hand. The fact that ya received five metals, metals that come from Mother Earth, well that's very interestin' indeed. Now, Devlin please put the pieces of metal in a bag.

Devlin does as he is told but mutters under his breath the whole time. He hands the bag to Elwin and then vanishes.

LACHLAN  
I didn't mean to take...

ELWIN  
Not to worry he is payin' his price for the sufferin' his family caused others. Ya see Lachlan, in this realm, when ya hurt others, it comes back to ya times three. Off to our final task.

Lachlan exchanges a glance with Atlas and continues on to the corral. When he arrives Elwin opens the corral door with a simple SWOOSH of his hand.

ELWIN  
Go ahead. They won't hurt ya. Whichever animal approaches ya, and allows ya to touch it, is offerin' ya a hair or feather.

(MORE)

## ELWIN (CONT'D)

Each one of these creatures  
contains a certain amount of magic  
in each bit of its body. It will  
give yer magic the extra strength  
it needs.

Lachlan enters the corral and all of the animals look up.  
They begin to move toward him and encircle him, when suddenly  
a half-Pegasus, half-unicorn jumps in the middle of the  
circle with Lachlan.

NOELANI(62) is a beautiful, white Unisus. His horn shines  
like a giant white opal, and his wings look as though his  
feathers are made of silk.

## NOELANI

Back, all of ya.

Elwin enters the corral.

## ELWIN

Noelani, I almost forgot we still  
had ya. Ya haven't given a hair  
since, well ever.

## NOELANI

Elwin, ya know that me prophecy was  
always to give the young O'Malley  
me hair, and help him on his  
journey. I must go with ya Lachlan.

## ELWIN

Well, ya don't help out me business  
at all, so it's fine with me.

Noelani walks over to Lachlan and begins to nuzzle his arm  
gently.

## LACHLAN

Can ya seriously fly?

## NOELANI

And much more. Now quickly, take a  
hair so we may begin.

Lachlan plucks a hair from Noelani's mane and hands it to  
Elwin. Elwin takes it, leaves the corral, and walks over to  
the desk. He puts the hair on a velvet cushioned table next  
to the desk, alongside the metal, wood, and stones.

## ELWIN

Now to make yer amulet.

Elwin takes both of his hands and moves them over each of the  
objects. They float. Elwin SNAPS his fingers. The objects  
disappear and in their place appears a remarkable amulet  
unlike anyone has ever seen.

ELWIN  
 There, it's all yers. I must say  
 it's the finest amulet I've ever  
 made, or seen. Use it in good  
 health.

Lachlan puts the amulet around his neck.

ELWIN  
 Now take Noelani, and head to the  
 castle.

LACHLAN  
 Don't I need to pay ya or  
 somethin'?

ELWIN  
 That has already been taken care  
 of.

ATLAS  
 It's about that time.

ELWIN  
 It was truly a pleasure, yer  
 majesty.

Elwin gives Lachlan a wink. Lachlan notices Atlas start to  
 head towards the door. Elwin and Devlin follow.

NOELANI  
 On me back. You'll need to conserve  
 yer energy.

Lachlan climbs on Noelani's back and he follows Atlas and  
 Elwin into the entrance to the hallway, that leads back onto  
 the street.

EXT. ELWIN'S AMULET GARDEN - SUNSET

Lachlan and the others emerge through the door in the tree,  
 which seals as soon as they are through.

LACHLAN  
 What happened? It was just sunrise?

ATLAS  
 Time has a way of standin' still  
 while ye're in the amulet garden.  
 It's really a remarkable place, but  
 if ye're not careful ya can be gone  
 for years without realizin' it.

Suddenly, an arrow launches at Lachlan's head. Elwin grabs  
 the arrow in midair, inches from Lachlan's face.

LACHLAN  
 What the hell?

ELWIN  
Devlin! We have a hostile!

DEVLIN  
Tuar ceatha!

Lachlan shakes. The slightest mist of a rainbow appears, and carries Devlin over to the location that the arrow came from.

DEVLIN  
(yells back)  
'E's gone sir.

ATLAS  
I knew somethin' would happen!

LACHLAN  
What do ya mean, ya knew somethin'  
would happen?

ELWIN  
Ya should get Lachlan to the castle  
now! Devlin and I'll start  
interviewin' witnesses to see if  
they saw anythin'.

ATLAS  
Noelani, let's go!

Noelani turns, and he and Atlas gallop down a long street. Atlas, and Noelani are on the defensive. They gallop as quickly as they can down the streets, while staying alert. Lachlan holds on for dear life.

EXT. CHAILYA CASTLE ENTRANCE - SUNSET

Lachlan, Noelani, Phoenix, and Atlas arrive at the castle's entrance.

ATLAS  
Here we're. Let's get settled and  
eat shall we?

LACHLAN  
Eat? I was just almost killed!

ATLAS  
So, does that mean ye're not  
hungry?

LACHLAN  
Actually, I'm starvin', but that's  
not the point. Why did someone  
shoot an arrow at me?!

ATLAS  
All ya need to know is that ye're  
safe within the castle. Chailya is  
a fortress.

(beat)

(MORE)

ATLAS (CONT'D)

Now, the cooks should have some wild boar and cherry pie ready for ya.

LACHLAN

Ya still haven't answered me question!

(beat)

Wait, cherry pie?

ATLAS

Ya can't mess with a classic, not even in this world.

Lachlan begins to laugh, and Atlas rubs his amulet. The gate flies open. Lachlan gets off of Noelani and walks through.

NOELANI

I'm gonna go to the stables, I'll be ready whenever ya need me Lachlan. Just think of me, and I shall appear. It's one of me many gifts. I'll know when ya need me.

Noelani takes flight.

INT. CHAILYA CASTLE - GRAND HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Atlas walks Lachlan through the castle. Every creature he passes, House Elves, Wizards, Gnomes, Dwarves, all stare at him as he walks by.

The castle is lit by beautiful FAIRIES(18-50) in glass orbs that float. The stones on the floor grow a red moss under every step Lachlan takes. The most beautiful flowers you have ever seen grow out of the wall as Lachlan passes.

LACHLAN

This is weird! Everyone is starin' at me.

ATLAS

That's because ya don't exactly blend in. I mean what are ya wearin'? Were you in some sort of play? Is this a costume?

LACHLAN

No.

(beat)

It's just what I like. Me mum hates it too.

ATLAS

Everyone has their own style I suppose.

(beat)

Yers is definitely interestin'. I'll give ya that much.

(MORE)

ATLAS (CONT'D)

I'll have to pick up some robes for ya, so that ya can blend in with everyone for yer own protection.

Lachlan opens his mouth and is about to protest. He sees Atlas stare at him, and instead closes his mouth and nods.

INT. CHAILYA CASTLE - DINING ROOM - SUNSET

The ceiling has taken on the picture of the sun as it sets outside, and as it gets darker and darker, more and more fairy orbs appear. Enter Atlas, and Lachlan.

There is a giant boar on the center of the long dining table surrounded by every side food imaginable. There is a fireplace that practically reaches the ceiling along one of the walls. The fire begins to take the form of the kingdom's old rulers. Lachlan enthusiastically walks over and sits at the table.

INT. CHAILYA CASTLE - DINING ROOM - LATER

Lachlan pushes his plate forward. Half of the boar, sides, and pie are gone, and many of the dishes are empty.

LACHLAN

Now that we're at the castle Atlas, will ya please tell me where me father is?

ATLAS

Only if ya hold onto yer amulet, and make a promise that you'll do as I say, and not leave.

LACHLAN

What?

Atlas's face grows stern. Lachlan grabs his amulet and he rolls his eyes.

LACHLAN

(sarcastically)  
Fine, I promise not to leave, and to do as ya say.

ATLAS

Good, just so ya know, if ya break that promise, you'll burn for eternity. Another rule ya can thank yer father for later.

LACHLAN

(laughs)  
Ye're kiddin' right?

ATLAS

This is no laughin' matter. I'm completely serious.

LACHLAN

Where is me father? I deserve to know now more than ever after that stunt ya just pulled.

Atlas waves his hand. A large orb that floats appears in between them. The orb depicts the story as Atlas tells it. Lachlan watches.

The orb shows the Old Grey Man in his hut as he reads the parchment and star charts. It shows as he gives the message to the Dirty Man. The Dirty Man walks off and the Old Grey Man stabs himself. His amulet vanishes.

The orb then shows Teenage Prince Kyros as he kisses Teenage Abigail, and then nothing but war. It shows as Teenage Prince Kyros comes back to Gershwig and gets crowned.

Next, the orb shows Lachlan's doppelgänger father KING KYROS(39) as he visits a village with SIX SOLDIERS(19-40). The orb shows the King and his men being ambushed, but never shows the faces of the attackers.

The soldiers fall one by one, until only King Kyros remains. It shows as he is wounded, stripped of his amulet and sword, and then taken prisoner. The amulet and sword drops on the bodies of the dead soldiers.

The orb then POPS like a balloon.

ATLAS

Before yer great, great, great grandfather was born a prophecy was made that there would be a great war between good and evil. One that would divide the kingdom. And it would all start when a prince from this realm fell in love with a woman from the human realm. Ya see, when yer father fell in love with yer mum, he set into motion somethin' that had been destined for centuries. He tried to keep everythin' from occurrin', but he was unsuccessful. About eight days ago, yer father was taken when he was visitin' a distant village. All that was left behind was his sword, and the bodies of the soldiers that were with him.

Atlas places Lachlan's father's sword before him.

ATLAS

We don't know who took him, and we don't know where they took him. All we know, is that whoever is responsible wants to take away our freedom and has begun gatherin' troops.

LACHLAN  
Me father was kidnapped?

ATLAS  
Aye. The other part of the prophecy stated that the prince would have a half-human son who was fated to marshal good into the final battle against evil.

LACHLAN  
And ya think that's me?

Lachlan stands up and moves to the door.

LACHLAN  
I'm sorry but ye're mistaken. I'm a book nerd. I write stories. That's all. I mean that's what I do. I don't wage wars. The closest I've ever gotten to a war is history class, and video games. Yer crazy, I'm out of here.

ATLAS  
(yells)  
Remember yer promise, Lachlan!!!

LACHLAN  
That isn't fair! Ya tricked me!

ATLAS  
I'm sorry I deceived ya, but I had no choice. Desperate times and all. Now sit.

Atlas SNAPS his fingers, and Lachlan disappears and reappears in his seat.

LACHLAN  
Hey! Not cool Atlas.

ATLAS  
Sorry but I --

LACHLAN  
So, let me get this straight. Ye're tellin' me I'm supposed to go save the father I never knew? He has magic doesn't he? Why can't he use his magic to escape?

ATLAS  
Because we found his amulet among the soldiers' dead bodies. Without his amulet, he is powerless. The good news is he's alive. If he wasn't his amulet would have vanished.

LACHLAN  
Will I die?



ATLAS  
Only the journey is foretold  
Lachlan, not the endin'.

LACHLAN  
So, I could possibly die?

ATLAS  
It's a possibility. But I'll be  
with ya the whole time. And I,  
along with everyone in this kingdom  
would give our own lives before we  
let anyone touch ya. Besides, yer  
father would do it for ya.

LACHLAN  
No he wouldn't. He abandoned me.

ATLAS  
So, prove that ye're nothin' like  
him. Don't abandon him. Show him  
what family really does for each  
other. When we all return safely,  
we can arrange for yer parents to  
see each other again. Ya know yer  
mum is still in love with yer  
father. That is why she hasn't  
found anyone else, and why she  
still tells his stories. She still  
loves him, and she'll finally know  
why he left. They will be able to  
be together again, because the  
prophecy will have ended. The  
kingdom will no longer be in danger  
of fallin' into evil, bloodthirsty  
hands. Think of it.

Lachlan stares at the sword on the table.

ATLAS  
Lachlan, it's also me duty to tell  
ya should this kingdom fall to our  
enemies, they will not only have  
control of this world, but they  
will have control of yers as well.  
Yer people are free and oblivious  
because we allow it, but our foes  
will not be as kind. Yer weapons  
are no match for 'em. Freedom as ya  
know it will be but a memory...  
happiness just a tale.

LACHLAN  
You've got to be kiddin' me. A nerd  
savin' the world? Am I supposed to  
save a damsel in distress as well?

Atlas laughs.

ATLAS  
We will see if there is time. After  
all, every prince needs a princess.

LACHLAN

Atlas, I don't think I can do this.  
I mean I can't even face up to  
those jackeens at school. I'm  
scared. What if I can't do it?

ATLAS

We all are frightened, Lachlan. But  
we all believe in you. Also, fear  
is what sets us apart from 'em. We  
can feel, we can love, we can  
suffer real loss and therefore have  
real gain. It's what links us all  
together. It's what they want to  
take away. They want to control us,  
make us feel only fear and hate,  
because they are too afraid to feel  
themselves.

Lachlan takes a big breath.

LACHLAN'S IMAGINATION - INT. DEATH CAMPS - DAY

Lachlan imagines his mother. She looks sickly, with scratches  
and bruises on her face, arms, and legs. She is in a death  
camp for humans. SCREAMS of creatures as they are killed are  
heard.

Abigail wears a torn and worn dress. She CRIES while she  
scrubs a floor to which she is chained.

ATLAS (V.O.)

Could ya imagine a world where no  
one laughed, smiled, or loved, but  
only cried and screamed in pain,  
where free people became slaves? It  
would be unbearable.

INT. CHAILYA CASTLE - NIGHT

Lachlan stares hard at his father's sword.

LACHLAN

Fine. I'll do it, but not for ya or  
me father. I'm doin' this for me  
mum. She deserves to be happy and  
as ya put it, oblivious!

ATLAS

Wonderful! We begin trainin'  
tomorrow. Ya can use yer father's  
sword.

Lachlan stares at the fire. He sees his father's image as it  
stares back at him with a warm smile.

DREAM SEQUENCE - INT. FONDONT CAVES - TUNNEL - NIGHT

Lachlan runs down a dark hallway lit by balls of fire, each in the shape of a single eye. There are shackles on the walls and skeletons on the floor. There is a gate at the end of the hallway. Lachlan runs towards the gate. He hears a voice.

VOICE (O.S.)  
Lachlan! Help me! Lachlan! Help me  
please! Lachlan!

Lachlan arrives at the gate, and throws open the door. Something jumps on top of him. All Lachlan sees are two red eyes that glow.

## INT. LACHLAN'S BEDROOM - DAWN

Lachlan is asleep in a large wooden bed. Whittled onto the frame are beautiful, detailed flowers inlaid with gold. It has four posts and transparent, gold cloth hanging from the canopy. It shimmers when the light hits it.

Next to the bed is a wooden table that matches it. On top of the table is a lantern with a fairy asleep inside. It gives off minimal light. On the other side of the bed is a tray that floats. It has hot food on it that steams.

The ceiling is mimicking the sun as it rises outside. There is one arched window that the sun begins to pour through.

On one wall there is a fireplace. The fire has taken the shape of an eagle as it flies, and there are two chairs on a rug right in front of it. The floor is completely covered in piles of books.

Lachlan's eyes suddenly pop open.

LACHLAN  
Whoa...

Lachlan sits up. As his eyes begin to focus he can see the piles and piles of books. He quickly crawls to the foot of his bed to further investigate.

LACHLAN  
What the...?

Lachlan gets out of bed and trips over one of the piles.

## EXT. CHAILYA LAKE - MIDMORNING

Atlas stands next to a single tree in a clearing by the lake. The tree is large and the only one in the area. It looks like it's beginning to wilt.

The lake is large and the water calm. Weeds stick up out of the water by the shore line. Atlas stares out at the horizon. Lachlan approaches.

Atlas has his back to Lachlan.

ATLAS  
I assume ya ran across the books I  
left for ya in yer room.

LACHLAN  
Across, into, over, whatever. What  
are they for?

Atlas turns around.

ATLAS  
Ya must familiarize Yerself with  
the material by the next full moon.

LACHLAN  
But that's next week!

ATLAS  
Then I suggest ya don't dawdle.  
Now, let us begin yer trainin'  
shall we? First off, ya must  
understand that every creation has  
power within it, but only few know  
how to unlock and control it.

Atlas grabs a dead leaf from the ground, runs his hand over  
it, and it changes to a brilliant, healthy green.

ATLAS  
Ya must learn how to become one  
with nature, to trust in Yerself  
and yer heritage. But above all ya  
must learn to own yer emotions. To  
experience 'em and not run from  
'em. Yer powers are linked to yer  
emotions and the more ya embrace  
'em, the stronger yer magic will  
be. Now, sit!

Lachlan sits in front of the tree.

ATLAS  
I want ya to look at this tree.  
Study it. Tell me what ya see.

LACHLAN  
(sarcastically)  
A tree.

ATLAS  
Funny. Look deeper.

Lachlan rolls his eyes and then begins to look at the tree.

LACHLAN  
I guess, I see, somethin' that  
doesn't belong here. It's the only  
tree in this area, and it appears  
to be wiltin'.

(MORE)

LACHLAN (CONT'D)

Its leaves have holes in 'em and  
are brittle. It's on its last legs.

ATLAS

Good. Now, I want ya to close yer  
eyes and picture only the tree.  
Push all other thoughts out,  
especially the negative ones. I  
want ya to picture the tree strong  
and flourishin'. Picture its flower  
buds growin' and bloomin'. Commit  
to it. Smell the flowers' aroma.  
How green are its leaves? What  
color are the flowers?  
Concentrate...

Lachlan's eyes are closed and his face looks peaceful.

ATLAS

Now say... Crescere nemus.

LACHLAN

Crescere nemus.

ATLAS

(whispers)  
Well done.  
(regular voice)  
Open yer eyes Lachlan and look.

Lachlan opens his eyes and watches as the tree begins to grow  
new, beautiful, green leaves and white silk-like flowers.

LACHLAN

How did...? Who did...? Did I...?

ATLAS

Aye, ya did. Now, I want ya to  
spend three hours everyday  
practicin' on different objects.  
Soon, it will become second nature  
to ya so that all you'll have to do  
is say the proper incantation. Yer  
spell books contain all of the  
incantations. Memorize 'em. Let's  
move on. It's time for yer combat  
lessons.

Atlas begins to walk towards the castle. Lachlan takes one  
more glance at the tree, and then follows.

EXT. MEADOW - LATER

Atlas and Lachlan are in a large green meadow. Yellow and  
white wildflowers surround them. Soldiers stand guard. Atlas  
and Lachlan each have a large wooden stick in their hands.  
Lachlan begins to spin his.

LACHLAN

I should warn ya Atlas, I'm much younger and can move more quickly than ya.

ATLAS

Well then, yer highness...

(bows)

Let's see what ya've got.

Lachlan and Atlas fence. After Atlas plays with Lachlan for a few moments, Atlas hits Lachlan in the back of his knees, and Lachlan falls to the floor.

ATLAS

Always be aware of yer surroundin's, and remember yer weaknesses. Don't ever leave any part of yer body vulnerable to yer enemy. Keep Yerself movin' at all times and always think ahead. Know what ye're gonna do before ya do it.

Lachlan gets to his feet and lunges at Atlas. They begin to fence again. After another few moments, Lachlan is on his back on the ground with Atlas's stick up against his throat.

ATLAS

Don't ever hesitate, Lachlan. Fight to kill because that's what yer enemies will be doin'. Mercy is a concept that they don't understand. Now, on yer feet, and let us try again.

Lachlan takes a deep breath, rises to his feet and they begin to fence once again. Lachlan falls, but when he rises a YOUNG BOY(15) in black silk robes with ivory embroidery is in his place.

He wears a white gold and red rubellite amulet with black jade in the middle. He has a dark thick head of hair.

MONTAGE BEGINS:

Atlas teaches Lachlan archery in the woods. The sun beams through the trees. Lachlan continues to miss the tree that is his target.

The young boy is in the woods. He hunts deer with his bow and arrow.

Lachlan sits in his bedroom, in one of the chairs by the fire. He begins to read his spell books.

The young boy sits by a pond with koi that fly. He reads spell books.

Atlas and Lachlan fence in the meadow with swords instead of sticks.

In the woods, the young boy enchants a sword that he uses to practice how to fence.

Lachlan is in the woods with Atlas. They practice Lachlan's archery. Lachlan releases his bow and hits his target.

The young boy shoots an arrow at a rabbit and kills it.

Lachlan is on his bed in his room. Spell books are everywhere. He is asleep, on his stomach, with his head in one of the books. There is drool on the page.

Atlas teaches Lachlan how to ride Noelani while he flies.

Lachlan is going up and down the halls of the castle. He casts spells on everything and everyone.

Atlas and Lachlan fence in the meadow. Lachlan rides Noelani.

The young boy enchants two swords and fights them on horseback.

Atlas, Phoenix, and Lachlan are in the woods. Lachlan shoots an arrow at a watermelon that is on a tree stump about 200 feet away and hits it.

The young boy shoots an arrow at a lemon that is sitting on top of a quivering servant's head. He hits it.

Lachlan sits in front of the fire in his room and finishes his last spell book. He closes the book and puts it away on the book shelf with the rest of the books.

Atlas and Lachlan are fencing in the meadow. Lachlan has improved drastically. With one final move Lachlan has his sword up against Atlas's neck.

MONTAGE ENDS:

EXT. MEADOW - CONTINUOUS

Lachlan breathes heavily, and so is Atlas.

ATLAS  
Well done Lachlan, well done!

Lachlan pulls his sword away from Atlas, and collapses onto the ground.

ATLAS  
I'm confident ye're ready. Now, go back to the castle and get some rest, for we leave on our journey tomorrow at dawn.

Lachlan nods.

EXT. DRAWBRIDGE COURTYARD - DAWN

Atlas puts on Noelani's saddle. Atlas then sticks a knife and some other objects in a pack. He throws the pack over his shoulder.

As he rubs the sleep from his eyes, Lachlan walks over to Atlas and Noelani.

ATLAS

Glad to see ye're awake. I have all the essentials we will be needin'. The rest we can acquire later. Now up on Noelani's back, so we can start movin'. We have a lot of ground to cover if we're to reach the Woods of Avalon by nightfall tomorrow. There will be no stoppin' until then.

Atlas WHISTLES, and Phoenix comes and lands on his arm.

ATLAS

Phoenix will go and make sure the first part of our ride on the main road is safe.

Atlas lets go of Phoenix, and he takes to the sky.

ATLAS

Ya can relax right now. But once we hit the River Basque, we will be forgin' our own path. You'll need to stay alert and close.

LACHLAN

Why can't we just stay on the main road?

ATLAS

Because that's the first place the Goblins, Wendigos, and other horrible creatures will be lookin' for their next meal. We need to call as wee attention to ourselves as possible.

Atlas, and Noelani break into a gallop.

EXT. CHAILYA CASTLE LANDS - LATER

Atlas leads the way through the land that surrounds Chailya Castle. Lachlan and Noelani follow. As they gallop along, hobbits emerge from their dens and bow.

Fairies fly into the trees and sit. The trees begin to glow. Witches and wizards magically appear along the path, and enchant it to bloom with an array of beautiful wildflowers. Phoenix's CRIES are heard above.



They gallop along the hills and Chailya Castle's small outline can be seen in the distance.

EXT. FLATLANDS - AFTERNOON

Atlas, Lachlan, and Noelani travel along a flat stretch of land. The sun beats down. Atlas throws a canteen at Lachlan and he drinks. Then he throws the canteen back at Atlas.

Atlas walks over. Lachlan gets off of Noelani, and cups his hands together, so that Atlas can pour some water in them for Noelani to drink.

EXT. BELVA CANYON - SUNSET

Phoenix flies through a canyon that is within a snow-capped mountain range. The sun sets in the distance. He looks below at the winding path half way down the mountain and two small figures can be seen as they move at a steady pace.

EXT. PERPETUA MEADOW - NIGHT

The sky is painted with stars and a harvest moon. The grass is so tall it touches Noelani's knees. Lachlan bobs in and out of sleep. A thick fog surround them.

ATLAS  
Wake up Lachlan!

LACHLAN  
I'm sorry. I'm just so tired.

Several creatures' outlines swim out of the fog, but remain mostly hidden. Phoenix flies above, but is unable to see the creatures through the thick fog. A wolf pack HOWLS in the distance.

LACHLAN  
Hey Atlas? Why are there only a few Shapeshifters left?

ATLAS  
What?

LACHLAN  
Makani said he was one of the few Shapeshifters left. What did he mean by that?

ATLAS  
Hush, ye're gonna get us killed. Ya never know who is lurkin' nearby.

LACHLAN  
Please tell me. It'll help keep me awake.

ATLAS  
 I suppose you'll find out  
 eventually, so why not now. I'll  
 tell ya all that he told me.

Lachlan stares at Atlas, as Atlas looks off in the distance. The fog begins to thicken even more. Outlines of more Wendigos become more visible in the fog, but the travelers are still unaware.

FLASHBACK - EXT. JABARI CASTLE - DAY

YOUNG MAKANI(6) plays in the castle courtyard. He is surrounded by men.

ATLAS (V.O.)  
 Makani was once a prince of a  
 Kingdom called Jabari. He grew up  
 very indulged. Mak lived in a very  
 patriarchal society, but he loved  
 his mum.

Makani's MOTHER(29) comes and sweeps up Makani in her arms. She then spins with him. Makani grins from ear to ear. His aura is practically glowing.

Makani's mother, a striking blonde with green eyes, wears an amulet made of white gold and a red garnet. She looks at her son as if he is the only thing in the world that matters.

ATLAS (V.O.)  
 He had nothin' but the best.  
 Especially when it came to his  
 education. Even at a young age, his  
 mum saw how brilliant her son was.  
 Unfortunately, she died when he was  
 about seven, leavin' only his  
 father King Akuji to raise him.

INT. MAKANI'S MOTHER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Makani is at his mother's bedside as they all pay their final respects to her corpse. Makani seems to not understand that his mother has just passed. He walks up and tries to curl up in bed with his mother.

KING AKUJI(33) comes up and lifts Makani out of the bed mechanically. They are both brunettes with green eyes, and chiseled chins. His father has far more body hair though.

His father hands him off to a NURSE(60's), and walks out without a word. The nurse is a big, cold woman with salt and pepper hair.

ATLAS (V.O.)  
 His father started out as a good  
 king. However after losin' his  
 wife, he no longer had anyone to  
 keep him on the right track.

(MORE)

ATLAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 He taught Makani if ya want  
 somethin' then ya take it, no  
 matter what the cost.

EXT. JABARI TOWN SQUARE - DAY

King Akuji gives a speech in the town square. SOLDIERS(18-65)  
 gather money from the townspeople. A few refuse and try to  
 fight, but get dragged away by soldiers.

ATLAS (V.O.)  
 Power, greed, and paranoia took  
 over the King. He started by  
 raisin' taxes to an exorbitantly  
 high amount.

INT. JABARI DUNGEON - NIGHT

Creatures of all kinds are chained to the torture devices in  
 front of the dungeon cells. A JABARI SOLDIER(47) brings in  
 another villager, and throws him into the overcrowded  
 dungeon.

ATLAS (V.O.)  
 When creatures couldn't pay, they  
 were jailed. Soon, the dungeon was  
 overrun with creatures. Those that  
 were not imprisoned were left to  
 starve in the streets. The King's  
 greed and paranoia grew. He offered  
 food and a small stipend of gold to  
 those who chose to join his army.

EXT. JABARI VILLAGE - DAY

Jabari soldiers place themselves around the nearby villages.  
 Some begin to line up villagers and behead them.

ATLAS (V.O.)  
 He placed guards around every  
 village in his kingdom and when  
 anyone tried to flee, they were  
 beheaded in the village square for  
 all to see. Their heads mounted on  
 spikes. So many creatures in the  
 villages died that mass graves had  
 to be dug.

The soldiers force the villagers to dig mass graves.

ATLAS (V.O.)  
 Makani was about fourteen at this  
 point. His father always kept his  
 son by his side. He tried to teach  
 him his dark ways. King Akuji told  
 his son, "It's better to be feared  
 and strong, then loved and  
 perceived as weak." Or at least  
 that's what Mak told me once.

(MORE)

ATLAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 King Akuji soon became known  
 amongst all the kingdoms as the  
 Feared King.

EXT. CHAILYA CASTLE WALLS - NIGHT

King Kyros meets with a SPY(26). They converse.

ATLAS (V.O.)  
 When King Kyros, yer father,  
 returned from the human realm, one  
 of his spies told him what was  
 happenin'. He reported that the  
 Feared King was sendin' his troops  
 over to conquer Gershwig while it  
 was without a Monarch.

EXT. BURNED OUT VILLAGE - NIGHT

Jabari soldiers sit around a fire while they drink ale and  
 laugh.

ATLAS (V.O.)  
 As his first act as King, Kyros  
 commanded his troops in an ambush  
 of Akuji's soldiers.

King Kyros and his men ambush the soldiers.

EXT. PERPETUA MEADOW - NIGHT (BACK TO PRESENT)

Atlas looks at Lachlan who listens intently. The Wendigos  
 move towards the travelers, and make sure to stay hidden in  
 the fog.

ATLAS  
 They were victorious. Knowin' Akuji  
 was outnumbered, they pressed on to  
 the Kingdom of Jabari. Makani  
 pleaded with his father, beggin'  
 him to run. He laughed in his son's  
 face, and called him a coward.

FLASHBACK - EXT. JABARI CASTLE WALLS - DAY

TEEN MAKANI(14) stands outside the castle with what is left  
 of the army.

ATLAS (V.O.)  
 While he locked himself up in the  
 castle and enchanted the door, King  
 Akuji forced his son to fight with  
 what was left of his army.

(MORE)

ATLAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 When Kyros's army could be seen from the castle, King Akuji's troops realized they were drastically outnumbered. Most of 'em fled in fear.

King Kyros's army can be seen at the top of a nearby mountain. The Jabari soldiers flee into the forest.

ATLAS (V.O.)  
 Makani kept hearin' his father's voice in his head callin' him a coward, and so he couldn't flee with the others.

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

YOUNG MIAKODA(13), and YOUNG MARE(15) stop when they realize Makani isn't with him. They turn back and head to the castle to save their friend. They are caught by chailya soldiers.

ATLAS (V.O.)  
 Soon, his best friends realized he wasn't with 'em. They went back for him and they were captured, but not killed. Makani stood there holdin' his sword waitin' to fight to the death, but Kyros showed him mercy.

EXT. PERPETUA MEADOW - NIGHT (BACK TO PRESENT)

Phoenix comes and sits on Atlas's arm. Atlas pets him and continues. The Wendigos who are still hidden, begin to get into position around the travelers without a sound.

ATLAS  
 I was with yer father at the time. I remember exactly what he said to Makani. "Is this what yer mum would have wanted; For ya to die defendin' the most evil King in the history of the realm? Look at me son. Ya don't have to do this. Please give me yer sword."

Atlas pulls out his pipe and lights it. As he blows out the smoke, it begins to take the shape of King Kyros and Makani. Lachlan focuses in on the smoke. He watches as it plays out the end of Atlas's story.

A Wendigo signals to another to get ready.

ATLAS  
 As yer father got closer to him, I remember Makani's hands began to shake. He then spotted his best friends. He was thankful that they were still alive, but troubled that they were prisoners.

(MORE)

## ATLAS (CONT'D)

Realizin' that Makani was distracted by his friends, King Kyros knocked Makani's sword out of his hands. One of Kyros's men picked up Makani's sword, and two others came forward and grabbed Makani. They stripped him and his friends of their amulets until they were sure they weren't a threat. He owes his life and those of his two best friends to yer father. He is not only a just king, but a great, merciful man as well.

The smoke vanishes.

## LACHLAN

(under his breath)  
To everyone but me.

A SCREECH is heard, and the Wendigos attack! Atlas and Lachlan begin to fight them. A Wendigo bites Lachlan, and he SCREAMS in pain.

## ATLAS

Noelani, get him out of here! I'll lead 'em away. Meet at the rendezvous!

Atlas gallops into the darkness, followed by Phoenix. Noelani and Lachlan take flight. The Wendigos are unable to follow Lachlan, so they take off after Atlas and Phoenix.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Lachlan and Noelani watch what occurs from up above.

EXT. PERPETUA MEADOW - NIGHT

Atlas and Phoenix try to lose the Wendigos. They vanish and materialize in different spots as they gallop and fly along the meadow. They are headed fast towards mountains in the distance.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Lachlan and Noelani watch as Atlas and Phoenix vanish into the mountain range.

## LACHLAN

Do ya think they'll be alright?

## NOELANI (V.O.)

We'll meet 'em at the River Basque. There's not a doubt in me mind about that.

A dying Wendigo's SCREECH is heard...

EXT. RIVER BASQUE - NEAR BANK - LATE MORNING

Atlas and Phoenix arrive at the River Basque, around the same time as Lachlan and Noelani. All four travelers look exhausted, but seem happy to see each other.

The river's large and moves quickly. It lies at the bottom of a mountain range.

Beautiful trees line the shores and they are in full bloom. Silhouettes of fish can be seen in the crystal blue water.

Lachlan suddenly jumps off of Noelani and runs over to the riverbank. He bends down, cups his hands, and immerses them in the river. Atlas loosens Noelani's girth when he turns around, and sees Lachlan at the water.

ATLAS  
(screams)  
No!! Lachlan stop! Don't drink that water! Get away from the river!

Lachlan is just about to drink the water, when he hears Atlas. He drops the water back into the river and turns to look in Atlas's direction.

When Lachlan's back is turned, an AMORPHORINE(85) jumps out of the river, grabs Lachlan's leg and tries to drag him into the water.

The Amorphorine looks like a cross between a prehistoric shark and a trout. He has rows of jagged, large teeth, and dark black eyes.

Lachlan YELLS in pain. Atlas quickly grabs the knife from his pouch and in one swift movement hurls it at the Amorphorine. The knife hits the beast in the neck. It SCREECHES and releases Lachlan's leg.

Then it slowly retreats into the water as its blood turns the water red. Atlas grabs Lachlan and drags him to safety.

Lachlan fights back the urge to scream in pain, while Atlas examines the wound. He rips open Lachlan's pant leg. Lachlan SCREAMS. Atlas then grabs a bottle from the his bag.

Atlas pours a clear liquid on the ooze in Lachlan's wound. He puts his hands on the wound and shuts his eyes. After a moment he opens his eyes and releases Lachlan's leg. He then wipes away the blood. It reveals a perfectly unharmed limb.

LACHLAN  
How did ya. .. what did ya. .. what was...? But me leg was...

ATLAS  
One question at a time please.  
First things first.

Atlas SMACKS Lachlan in the head.

ATLAS

What were ya thinkin'? Are ya daft? Ya could have been killed and our journey has barely begun. Why do ya think I made ya read all those books? It's not because I enjoy watchin' ya die of boredom. It was for yer safety. Ya need to be more aware. I may not always be around to save ya.

LACHLAN

I'm sorry Atlas, truly I am.

ATLAS

That's all right. Let's just use our head next time. Now, as far as yer questions are concerned, I used a very rare potion to help me heal ya. It's made of Phoenix tears, and some shavin's of a unicorn's horn that have been blessed by the Queen of the Dryads. A person's ability to heal is based on many things. The severity of the wound for one, as well as their lineage, heart, and natural abilities. Yer abilities will come to ya in time. Who knows? Ya may be able to heal without potions like yer father can. It's a very rare gift though.

LACHLAN

What about that thin' in the water that... I think I'm havin' phantom pain.

Lachlan rubs his leg, Atlas lets out a chuckle.

ATLAS

The River Basque is bewitched. It lures travelers in with its beauty, promises of shade, sustenance, and water. However, if the traveler takes even a sip of its water they will fall into a deep sleep from which they will never wake. And if there's no one around to save 'em, they fall prey to the monstrous creatures that reside in or around the water. For example, the Amorphorine that attacked ya. A savage beast that strikes without warnin' and hunts for pleasure as much as survival. If there's one thin' ya can learn from me before the end of this voyage, it'd be to always look at things twice, and understand that things aren't always as they appear to be.

(beat)

Now to cross the river.



LACHLAN  
Excuse me what? Ya just got done  
tellin' me how dangerous --

ATLAS  
Relax. Up on Noelani's back. He'll  
fly ya over. As far as me gettin'  
across, I'll peridot.

Atlas suddenly vanishes and reappears on the other side of  
the river.

LACHLAN  
Wicked.

Lachlan gets on Noelani's back. He flies over the river, and  
observes from a safe distance, the now visible monstrous  
creatures that jump out of the water. They each try to catch  
Lachlan, but to no avail.

EXT. RIVER BASQUE - FAR BANK - LATE MORNING

Noelani lands by Atlas.

LACHLAN  
Hey Atlas! Ya've been holdin' out  
on me. When are ya gonna teach me  
to do what ya just did? That was  
amazin' .

ATLAS  
Ya must be 21 to peridot  
unfortunately. But the second ya  
are, it'll be me pleasure to teach  
ya. No time for sulkin'. We must be  
on our way. Eyes up now, and keep  
as quiet as possible.

Atlas takes off into the trees, while Lachlan defeatedly  
shakes his head. He jerks forward and grabs Noelani's neck as  
they gallop off after Atlas.

As they make their way through the patch of flowering trees,  
Lachlan observes his surroundings. He watches as a bird flies  
over to the flowers on the trees and without warning the  
flower devours the bird. Lachlan's eyes grow wide with fear.

EXT. BURNED OUT VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

They ride through the remains of a burnt village. Smoke rises  
from the ashes. Charred skeletons of all shapes and sizes are  
on the ground. There are heads of the dead on spikes. Lachlan  
looks around with terror in his eyes. They pick up speed.

EXT. WOODS OF AVALON - SUNSET

They arrive on the outskirts of the Woods of Avalon. As they  
enter the woods, all light fades.

INT. WOODS OF AVALON - DUSK

The canopy is thick. Pixies fly about the woods. They give off the only illumination. The trees are taller and thicker than red woods, and their enormous roots are intertwined.

Their large trunks look like faces of old men and women. Moss covers the rest of the ground. The roots slowly and quietly begin to awaken and move.

Arrows fly through the air. Lachlan flies off Noelani's back and is pinned to a tree. Before Noelani, Atlas, or Phoenix can do anything the roots have them imprisoned and they are unable to move or speak.

ANYA THE WOOD NYMPH(16) jumps down from a high tree branch. She carries a gold bow and magic arrows. Once fired, her arrows always re-materialize in their quiver.

Anya is a curvaceous beauty with porcelain skin, dark hair, and eyes as green as the woods themselves.

She is wearing a tattered, short green dress that has a gold belt. A tsavorite (green garnet) amulet hangs around her neck, and a gold wreath sits atop her head.

She makes her way towards Lachlan.

ANYA

Who do ya think ya are enterin' me woods? What business do ya have here?

(smirks)

If... I find yer story entertainin' and truthful ya and yer friends might just escape with yer lives.

Lachlan looks at her and begins to speak.

LACHLAN

Me name's... Ya know this would be an iffrean of a lot easier, if I didn't have arrows rubbin' against me ribcage every time I take a breath.

Anya vanishes from sight. She reappears right in front of Lachlan. She holds a dagger to his neck. Lachlan swallows.

ANYA

Men...

She uses her dagger to remove the arrows. Lachlan rubs his ribs once he is free.

LACHLAN

Thank ya, I didn't catch yer name.

ANYA

That's because I didn't give it to ya.

Anya turns her back on Lachlan.

ANYA

Arms.

TREE #1(90) and TREE #2(80) open their eyes, and wrap their branches around Lachlan's arms. His body is now shaped like a lower case T, movement impossible.

LACHLAN

Well, I guess this is an improvement.

ANYA

Me name is Anya, and I'm growin' bored of ya... I get cranky when I'm bored. Ya don't want to see me cranky.

LACHLAN

(under his breath)  
And I thought the girls at school were bad.

ANYA

What was that?

LACHLAN

I feel very bad... for intrudin' on ya I mean. It's bad manners, but this is an emergency. I'm Lachlan by the way. I don't know if I mentioned that.

ANYA

No ya didn't. Ya were too busy wettin' Yerself.

Lachlan clenches his hands into tight fists at the insult.

LACHLAN

Me father, the King of Gershwig has been kidnapped, and me comrádaíthe and I are tryin' to locate and free him before somethin' horrible happens.

ANYA

Continue...

LACHLAN

We would not have entered the woods except we're bein' hunted. We need the safety and shelter of yer trees. All we ask is that ya spare us. We promise that once our journey has concluded you'll be handsomely rewarded.

ANYA

I'll not agree to anythin', until I check yer story with the elders.

(MORE)

ANYA (CONT'D)

So, either come with me to the castle, and hope me father has heard of yer tale and is in a good mood... or I can use ya as target practice here and now. It's yer choice.

Anya readies her bow.

LACHLAN

I think the choice is obvious.

Anya puts her bow over her shoulder.

ANYA

(to trees)

Release 'em.

TREE #1

As ya wish yer highness.

Noelani, Atlas, and Phoenix fall to the ground and then quickly stand up. Lachlan runs over to check if they are injured. Anya walks through the trees.

ANYA

(yelling back)

I'm not waitin'!!!

A tree branch swings and barely misses Lachlan.

LACHLAN

Who has her panties in a twist?

They laugh and follow Anya into the darkness.

EXT. WOODS OF AVALON - DUSK

Anya leads Lachlan, Atlas, Noelani and Phoenix through the dark woods to the base of a mountain. Each tree that they pass opens its eyes and watches as they go by.

Finally, they arrive at a tree at the base of the mountain. Anya bends down to a patch of wildflowers near the trunk and plucks one.

The flower reappears in the same spot as the mountain begins to quake. The mountain then gives way to a large tunnel. Roots run along the ceiling.

Attached to the roots are iridescent flowers that glow and give the tunnel a dim, eerie light. Embedded in the walls are trees and roots. The floor is made of green emeralds.

LACHLAN

Holy... This is amazin'.

As Lachlan takes in the sight, Anya advances into the tunnel.

ANYA  
Are ya comin'?

Lachlan and the others follow Anya into the tunnel.

INT. ARELLA TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

Once inside, the opening quickly closes, so that there is no way to escape. Lachlan looks over his shoulder, hesitates, and then continues on.

LACHLAN  
(under his breath)  
There is no turnin' back now.  
(beat)  
What is this place Anya? Where are  
we goin'?

Anya picks up her pace. The others quicken their step to keep up. They can see a bright light at the end of the tunnel. Finally, they arrive at the end of the tunnel and step into the light.

They stand underneath a wooden archway in the middle of a giant redwood.

EXT. ARELLA - VILLAGE - EVENING

They are in what seems to be a round valley in the middle of a mountain. The top of the mountain is enchanted to look real from above.

However, when one looks up from below, the shine from the moon and stars can be seen above. The walls are covered with vines, roots, and flowers.

Redwoods fill the empty space. However, the middle of their trunks have been carved into cabins with doors and windows.

Lachlan sees light pour out of the windows and people inside of the hollowed-out trunks as they eat by a fireplace. Smoke rises from the leaf-covered tips of the trees. As it rises, it vanishes.

Lachlan listens as water SPLASHES. He looks down. Lachlan stands on a wooden, moss-covered platform that winds through the city. Bridges lead off to each household.

The only way to travel through the city, is by boat or on the platform. Dark wooden boats are attached to docks behind each house.

The water that surrounds them is ice blue, and gives off an iridescent light that is so bright it illuminates the whole city.

In the middle of the city is a large ivy-covered stone castle. Water pours down on top of and all around it, which gives off the impression it's under a waterfall.

However, when one looks up the water has no source. It just appears from midair.

ANYA  
Welcome to Arella. It isn't much,  
but it's home.

As Lachlan looks harder into the water he realizes that the light comes from thousands of large glowing fish that swim through it. Lachlan leans closer for a better look as one flies through the air.

It flies close to Lachlan. He attempts to touch it -- it frightens, and flies away.

LACHLAN  
What are those? I've never seen  
anythin' like 'em.

ANYA  
Those are moon fish. They have been  
enchanted to absorb sunlight durin'  
the day, and then slowly release it  
at night. They give off a heavenly  
light that's just bright enough to  
light our city at night, without  
bringin' unwanted attention to us.  
No one knows how they became  
enchanted. For it required magic  
that's beyond our comprehension. Me  
grandmum use to say that the moon  
fish are guardians from heaven. She  
said that our ancestors summoned  
'em to protect us and deliver our  
hopes and dreams to the creator.

LACHLAN  
Yer grandmum sounds like an  
incredible person. Not to mention a  
talented storyteller.

ANYA  
(smiles)  
She was.

LACHLAN  
Was?

ANYA  
She passed away when I was ten. It  
was her time and she went  
peacefully.  
(beat)  
This might sound weird, but to this  
day, I still come down to the water  
at night when I can't sleep and I  
talk about everythin'. Me day, me  
feelin's, me fears, just everythin'

(MORE)

ANYA (CONT'D)

Maybe I'm a freak, but I like to think that the moon fish are deliverin' me messages to me grandmum, and she is guidin' me through whatever challenges and obstacles I may come to face.

Anya looks down into the water and tries not to appear vulnerable.

ANYA

Ya probably wouldn't understand.

LACHLAN

I do understand.

(beat)

When I was young I use to sneak out of me mum's house after she had fallen asleep. I'd tiptoe out and go to the ruins of this castle on top of a nearby mountain. The only memory I have of me father is when he brought me to the castle. After he ran out on me mum and me, I'd go there and wish on every star in the sky that he would return. Finally, after years went by of me wishin' I gave up. But, I must admit there are some rare occasions that I find myself wishin' on a star. So, ye're not a freak at all. If anythin' ye're normal.

Lachlan smiles. Anya looks up and meets Lachlan's eyes. There is silence for a moment as they gaze at each other. Anya breaks the gaze, and abruptly turns her back on Lachlan.

ANYA

Come on, it's gettin' late and I'm tired.

Anya walks towards the castle, and Lachlan follows. Atlas, Noelani, and Phoenix look around Arella, when they see Lachlan and Anya as they move towards the castle. They follow.

EXT. ARELLA - DRAWBRIDGE - EARLY EVENING

Anya and Lachlan stop when they arrive at the drawbridge to the castle. Water pours down on top of the drawbridge. It parts at one point to make a water-arched tunnel that leads to the entrance.

SOLDIER #1(52) and SOLDIER #2(28) stand guard in front of the tunnel. The soldiers are muscular men with sharp features.

Their eyes are a moss-colored green, and they both have long, light brown hair, that has been pulled back into a pony tail, held in place by a gold vine.

Their amulets are made of green alexandrite, and their shoes are golden sandals.

They wear dark green robes with gold embroidery around the edges. Embroidered in gold on their chests is the Elven seven-pointed star.

Anya walks into the water tunnel, followed by Lachlan. Noelani, Atlas, and Phoenix catch up, and join the other two. As they head into the tunnel, Lachlan takes up the rear.

As Lachlan walks through it he is stunned to find himself completely dry. When he looks up, the water swirls into beautiful designs that calm and hypnotize him.

His gaze remains at the ceiling as he takes in its beauty. He walks right into Atlas who has stopped with the others to speak with the guards. Atlas barely moves from the impact, but Lachlan is knocked onto his back.

LACHLAN

Um... Ow.

They all look at Lachlan. Anya shakes her head. Noelani and Atlas chuckle softly. Anya approaches the soldiers and they bow their heads.

SOLDIER #1 & SOLDIER #2

Yer highness.

ANYA

Gentlemen.

SOLDIER #1

Visitors, yer highness?

ANYA

I'm not sure yet.

Anya glares back at the others and tries to analyze them.

ANYA

(to Soldier #1)

Please have one of the grooms take Noelani to the stable. Have 'em bathe him, shoe him, and give him as much food and water as he wants. He is to receive nothin' but the best, until I say otherwise.

SOLDIER #1

As ya wish.

Soldier #1 bows his head to Anya and departs with Noelani towards the stable.

Anya turns her focus to the Soldier #2.



ANYA

I need ya to find me father and inform him that he must summon the elders as quickly as possible. If he inquires why, then ya may tell him that I stumbled across some trespassers while I was huntin'. They told me of their supposed quest, and I need the wisdom of the elders to determine if they're friend or foe.

SOLDIER #2

Right away yer highness.

Soldier #2 bows his head and then quickly disappears into the castle.

ANYA

Now we'll see if yer story holds merit. Come.

Anya walks through the entrance and the other three follow.

INT. ARELLA CASTLE - GRAND HALLWAY - NIGHT

The walls of the hallway are lined with tree trunks. Only half of the trunks are visible. The walls have been bewitched to look like the dark night sky. The stars twinkle bright enough to light the hallway.

The ceiling of the arched hallway is covered with branches that are connected to the tree trunks. Flourishing from the branches are an abundance of green leaves. They cover every inch of the ceiling and creates a thick, green canopy.

The floor is made of pure green emeralds. As they walk by the trees, the trees open their eyes and watch as they pass. The hallway leads to a large staircase.

INT. ARELLA CASTLE - STAIRCASE - NIGHT

At the top of the staircase there is a giant mirror on the wall. On either side of the mirror are two more giant, emerald curved staircases that head in opposite directions.

Soldier #2 runs down the stairs on the right. He breathes heavily. When he reaches Anya he bows his head and tries to catch his breath.

SOLDIER #2

(breathless)  
Yer highness, I've just come from his majesty's chambers.

The soldier takes a deep breath.

SOLDIER #2

He says some of the elders are huntin', but should return shortly. However, in the meantime, he wants ya to feed yer guests.

ANYA

Pardon me? Me guests? They are trespassers and should be punished, not rewarded by gorgin' themselves on our food! Tell me father that me guests will await the elders in the dungeon with the other criminals.

Soldier #2 bows his head and is about to go back up the stairs when the head of KING ADAIR(56) appears in the mirror. All that is visible are his face, long, silver hair and beard. His pale green eyes are full of wisdom and compassion.

His face is chiseled. Even though he is aged, he is still very handsome. He wears a large, gold crown on his head with emeralds, tourmalines, and diamonds embedded in it.

KING ADAIR (V.O.)

Halt.

The soldier stops.

KING ADAIR (V.O.)

Thank ya for deliverin' the message. I shall take it from here. Ya may return to yer post.

SOLDIER #2

Thank ya yer majesty.

He bows his head and then moves away down the stairs.

KING ADAIR (V.O.)

Anya me darlin', I believe, at the moment, it's I who am the ruler of Arella. Am I not?

Anya looks down at her feet.

ANYA

Yes Father. But...

KING ADAIR (V.O.)

But nothin' Anya. As long as I'm King, not to mention yer father, you'll do as I say!

ANYA

(raising her voice)  
They were trespassin'! They are criminals, Father!

KING ADAIR (V.O.)

Quiet. I'm yer father, and deserve yer respect and trust.

(MORE)

KING ADAIR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

This rebellious attitude which I've been observin' lately ends here. Now do as I say, and take 'em to the dinin' hall. Also, have someone take the falcon to the aviary for the time bein'. I shall be down shortly.

ANYA

Aye Father.

Anya turns to go up the stairs to the left.

KING ADAIR (V.O.)

And Anya...

Anya stops and moves back in front of the mirror.

KING ADAIR (V.O.)

Don't think I forgot about the disrespect ya showed me in front of one of me subjects. I'm not pleased with ya at the moment and we will be discussin' it further.

ANYA

Aye Father.

King Adair disappears from the mirror.

LACHLAN

(whispers)

Awkward.

Anya rolls her eyes. She heads back up the stairs.

ANYA

Come on then!

They follow Anya up the stairs.

INT. ARELLA CASTLE - LONG WOODEN HALLWAY - NIGHT

As they walk down the hallway, they notice the walls on both sides are amazingly detailed with wooden sculptures of the heads of Arella's past rulers. The sculptures protrude out.

In between each head a small branch extends with a lighted lantern that hangs from its tip. The floor is made of large, flat stones. Doors also line the walls with beautiful scenes of nature carved on them.

Every now and then a brownie comes out of a door and shyly passes by them in the hallway. Mauro the brownie is a type of small, brown creature that looks like a wrinkly, old man.

Anya, Lachlan, Atlas, and Phoenix arrive at two large wooden doors carved with a sunrise on a meadow. Anya walks towards the doors and they slowly open on their own.

INT. ARELLA CASTLE - DINING HALL - NIGHT

They enter the dining hall. It's a rather large room with a long, wooden table in the middle. Suspended in midair over the table, a fire burns in the shape of a rose in full bloom.

The floor is covered with a variety of colorful and perfect, wildflowers, which are protected by a layer of glass.

The ceiling and walls have been enchanted to look like the sky in midday. The clouds move slowly and constantly. The sun shines enough to illuminate the great hall.

A silver fireplace is placed against one of the walls. Its fire is also enchanted to look like the sky. A hob named DAMON(58) walks out of the sky. Damon walks towards Anya and bows his head.

Damon is no more than three feet tall. He is light brown with pointed ears and has no hair except that which is in his ears. He wear a white shroud.

DAMON

Welcome home yer highness. I hope yer huntin' excursion proved successful.

ANYA

Successful? No. I think interestin' would be a better description.

DAMON

Well, how might I serve ya today?

ANYA

Me father has requested that we feed these travelers. He wishes that they be treated with the utmost hospitality Arella has to offer. So, work yer magic and pull out all the stops.

DAMON

Of course yer highness, right away.

ANYA

Oh and Damon? Will ya please make sure that Phoenix gets to the aviary?

DAMON

Aye.

Damon shuts his eyes for a few moments and then opens them. Mauro walks out of the same piece of wall that Damon had appeared from earlier. He shyly walks towards Anya and Damon. When he reaches Anya he bows his head.

Anya smiles at him. Mauro directs his gaze towards Damon.

DAMON  
 Mauro, will ya please make sure  
 Phoenix gets to the aviary, and  
 that he has plenty of food and  
 water?

Mauro nods, and Phoenix looks at Atlas, who reassures him with a nod. Phoenix then flies over to land on Mauro's shoulder. Mauro seems to almost buckle under Phoenix's weight.

Mauro gives an awkward bow to Anya and then with much difficulty exits the dining hall with Phoenix.

DAMON  
 Yer food shall be ready shortly,  
 yer highness.

Damon bows his head towards Anya and then disappears into the wall. The others gather around the dining table.

INT. ARELLA CASTLE - DINING HALL - LATER

Silver plates and goblets line the table. All the plates are empty except for a few crumbs and cutlery. A pig carcass and turkey carcass remain on two silver platters.

Next to the platters are bowls half-filled with porridge, vegetables, and mashed potatoes. Three half-eaten frosted cakes are on the table next to a bowl of pudding, and a platter with the remainder of the pastries.

Everyone looks full and tired when King Adair enters through the double doors. He is tall and wears his crown. He also wears gold sandals and gold robes with dark green embroidery that matches the embroidery of the soldiers' robes.

His amulet is made of gold that has been entwined with silver. It has a large green emerald in the middle.

KING ADAIR  
 I trust ya all enjoyed yer meal,  
 and had enough to eat?

LACHLAN  
 Um... yes. It was delicious. Thank  
 ya yer... uh... yer honor? Yer  
 highness?

ATLAS  
 Majesty.

LACHLAN  
 Right... what he said... I knew  
 that. Sorry.

KING ADAIR  
 That's quite alright. Now, the  
 elders have all returned and are  
 awaitin' us in the throne room.

(MORE)

## KING ADAIR (CONT'D)

So, let's go and see if we can't  
make sense of this business, shall  
we?

The King exits. Anya, Lachlan, and Atlas get up from the table and follow.

## INT. ARELLA CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

The throne room is large and rectangular. The walls, ceiling, and floor are made completely of quick-flowing ice-blue water. A glass substance covers the water. It protects those in the room from getting wet.

The water swirls and moves quickly all around the room. At the far end of the room, the glass covered floor is raised up two steps.

In the middle of the raised platform are two thrones. One larger than the other, but both made of gold with green jade crushed velvet cushions. The gold portion of the thrones have been melted and carved to look like leafy vines.

Beneath the platform on both sides of the room are long silver tables. Their legs also resemble thick leafy vines. Six silver chairs with green cushions are behind each of the tables.

Seated in the chairs are the twelve elders. They all wear silver robes with embroidery identical to the King's robes. They also all wear silver sandals.

MAREK(50), VAREN(54), have long brown hair and beards.  
SOLOMON(58), XAVIER(55) have long blonde hair and beards.  
PLACIDO(60), and NERO(84) have long silver hair and beards.

Their eyes are all green only they differ in shade, and they are all older, pale men. Their amulets are made of silver with aquamarine, amazonite, green aventurine, and jade.

King Adair enters followed by Anya, Atlas, and Lachlan. When the elders see the King enter they all rise. King Adair walks up the two steps and sits in the larger throne.

Anya follows her father and sits next to him. Once they are seated, the elders sit in their chairs. King Adair begins to speak to the elders.

## KING ADAIR

Thank ya for comin' so quickly. I know that ye're all tired from yer huntin' excursion today, and it's late in the evenin'. This shouldn't take long.

(beat)

While Anya was in the woods, she came across these travelers. Not knowin' whether their tale was true, she brought 'em here. She was unable to discern whether they are friend or foe.

(MORE)

KING ADAIR (CONT'D)

We're now relyin' on yer wisdom and even temperament to unravel the truth.

King Adair looks at Lachlan and Atlas.

KING ADAIR

So, let's begin. Enlighten us as to why ya were takin' harbor in our woods. Please begin with yer name.

LACHLAN

Yes yer majesty. Me name is Lachlan O'Malley, and me comp are Atlas...

Lachlan points at Atlas.

LACHLAN

... Phoenix, who is enjoyin' yer hospitality in the aviary, and Noelani who is bein' cared for in the stable. I'd like to begin by apologizin' for trespassin'.

KING ADAIR

Thank ya.

LACHLAN

Me comrádaithe and I were seekin' shelter and safe harbor from our enemies who have been tryin' to locate us. Ya see gentlemen, me father, the king of Gershwig, was kidnapped. We don't know by whom, but we do know that they are buildin' a large army. Stronger than ya could ever imagine. If they succeed they'll enslave every creature, and ruin the beauty that's life. I'm not yer enemy gentlemen. I'm just a boy who is tryin' to save his father, and the world that he loves so much.

Atlas nods his head.

LACHLAN

We didn't know of yer glorious city. We only knew that the trees could shield us from the Goblins and Wendigos that are patrollin' the main road. We meant no harm, and we were unaware of yer ownership of the woods. On this I give ya me word. Once again, I apologize. Yer majesty, I'd like to thank ya for the hospitality ya've bestowed upon us. Yer obviously a great man. I only hope that durin' me travels I meet more men like ya.

KING ADAIR  
Thank ya Lachlan. I think I can  
speak for the rest of the elders  
when I say that ya don't seem to  
pose any sort of threat to Arella.

MAREK  
Yer majesty I must disagree.

Marek stands up and walks over to Lachlan and Atlas.

MAREK  
I have traveled far and wide and  
have heard no talk of this alleged  
kidnappin'. How are we to know that  
they are speakin' the truth?  
Because they give us their word?

KING ADAIR  
Oh come now Marek...

MAREK  
And furthermore yer majesty, if  
their tale is true, then they have  
put us all in danger.

PLACIDO  
How do ya mean Marek?

MAREK  
If these supposed armies are  
huntin' 'em, by allowin' 'em to  
seek refuge here we're writin' our  
own death warrants.

XAVIER  
Stop bein' so dramatic Marek. How  
horrible can this army be. I  
mean... that's, since ya haven't  
heard of 'em.

NERO  
He is right Marek. We'd have heard  
if there was an unstoppable army.  
Not to mention Arella is hidden. No  
one knows its location. Plus, the  
entrance would never have opened if  
they were here to harm us.

SOLOMON  
But they had Anya with 'em. The old  
magic our ancestors used to protect  
Arella disappears in the company of  
nobility.

VAREN  
Marek is right, yer majesty. They  
could have led their enemies right  
to us. The secrecy and safety of  
Arella has been compromised.



MAREK

Thank ya, Varen. They have put our lives in jeopardy yer majesty. As have ya. Yer naïveté has put us in danger more times than I care to count. There's no changin' the fact that yer King. However, because of yer carelessness, I think, actually we all think, that we should make a change. It's time that the Council of Elders takes over the decision-makin'. You'll still remain King of Arella, but all decisions will henceforth be made by us.

King Adair looks around at the elders.

KING ADAIR

Do ya all feel this way?

King Adair stops and looks at Placido.

KING ADAIR

Placido, ye're the one I can always count on. Yer the most wise of all the elders, and yer instincts are always correct.

(smiles)

Ya agree with me, don't ya old friend?

PLACIDO

I'm sorry yer grace, but Marek is right. By our laws they are not only criminals, but they are enemies. They've put us all in danger. As much as it pains me to say this, so have ya.

ANYA

Father... don't...

KING ADAIR

So be it.

SOLOMON

So what now?

NERO

They must be punished accordingly. All except ya yer majesty. Ya must maintain... be the face of kingship for the citizens. They'll need yer reassurin' words now more than ever. Varen, check the scrolls.

Varen pulls scrolls out from a secret compartment in the table and begins to unwind them.

VAREN

This can't be right. Xavier?

XAVIER  
Unfortunately it is.

LACHLAN  
Can someone clue us in please?

XAVIER  
Our laws state that the... um...  
punishment for yer crimes is...

MAREK  
Death!

LACHLAN  
(yells)  
What? Ya can't be serious!

Every muscle in Atlas's body tightens.

MAREK  
I have never been more serious. The  
three of ya will be taken to the  
dungeon to await yer execution at  
sunrise.

ANYA  
Three? Ya aren't serious!

MAREK  
I think I shall keep the bird and  
Unisus as me own. Me dear Anya, ya  
didn't think that ya would go  
unpunished? Ya committed the worst  
crime of all. Ya betrayed us. Ya  
invited 'em in. It'd only be  
fittin' that ya receive the same  
punishment.

KING ADAIR  
How dare ya Marek. That's me  
daughter, and yer princess. Ya  
don't have the power...

MAREK  
I didn't have the power, but now I  
do. Guards!!!

KING ADAIR  
Marek, ya've always been power-  
hungry!

The room suddenly fills with guards in green robes. Two of  
them hold the King and the others drag Anya, Lachlan, and  
Atlas away as they kick and SCREAM.

KING ADAIR  
Anya! Oh Anya I'm so sorry.

ANYA  
Father! Father, help me! Please!  
Father!

King Adair looks down at the floor.

KING ADAIR  
I can't Anya.

INT. ARELLA CASTLE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Anya is dragged into the hallway.

INT. ARELLA CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

King Adair grabs hold of his throne.

KING ADAIR  
I... I... can't.

King Adair collapses on the throne.

INT. ARELLA CASTLE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Anya, Lachlan, and Atlas flail their arms and legs as they are dragged down the hallway. Anya CRIES.

ANYA  
Father!!!

Some soldiers laugh.

INT. ARELLA CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Marek turns away from King Adair, who sits as if he is in shock, and he smiles sinisterly.

INT. ARELLA CASTLE - DUNGEON CELL - LATER

The dungeon is cold and dark. The walls are made of stone. Moss grows in the cracks. Chains hang on the walls. They hold the skeletons of the past prisoners.

There is a dusty stone bench against one of the walls. The only light in the cell comes through the bars that make up a small window on the door.

Anya CRIES in the corner. Lachlan sits on the bench and curses quietly as his head rests in his hands. Atlas is paces the cell and tries spell after spell to open the door.

They all bounce off the walls and knock him off his feet. A bone from one of the skeletons falls to the floor.

ATLAS  
We have to get out of here.

ANYA  
 (through tears)  
 It's no use Atlas. The dungeon is  
 enchanted. Spells won't work.  
 Escape is impossible.

LACHLAN  
 Well how about regular old  
 strength?

Lachlan stands and runs full speed at the door. Before he reaches it he trips over a dusty skull on the floor and falls flat on his face.

LACHLAN  
 Um... ouch.

Everyone laughs. Anya included. She gets up and goes to help Lachlan.

ANYA  
 Thanks Lachlan, I needed that.

LACHLAN  
 I'm glad ya find me pain so  
 amusin'.

Someone can be heard as they open the cell doors and let out all the prisoners.

INT. ARELLA CASTLE - DUNGEON - NIGHT

The person who is releasing the prisoners steps into the light. It's King Adair.

KING ADAIR  
 Go! Quickly now. Ya need to fight  
 for yer freedom.

PRISONER #1(47) stops and grabs the kings elbow.

PRISONER #1  
 Thank ya yer majesty.

KING ADAIR  
 Ye're welcome. Don't trust anyone.  
 The castle is under siege. Now  
 quickly go!

Prisoner #1 vanishes up the stairs.

INT. ARELLA CASTLE - DUNGEON CELL - NIGHT

King Adair comes over to Anya and the others' cell.

KING ADAIR (O.S.)  
 Psst.

ATLAS  
Did ya hear somethin'?

KING ADAIR (O.S.)  
Psst. Anya...

Anya recognizes the voice and runs to the door. A set of eyes are barely visible on the other side of the bars.

ANYA  
(loud)  
Father!

KING ADAIR  
Shh! Yes child it's me. Are ya alright?

ANYA  
Father, I'm scared. Why is this happenin'? What's goin' on?

KING ADAIR  
There is no time to explain Anya. By now, the guards have probably realized that I've escaped. They will arrive here shortly. I want ya to go with Lachlan and Atlas and get as far away from the castle as possible.

ANYA  
But father, I want to stay with ya.

KING ADAIR  
That's out of the question. It's not safe for ya here. This is not a request. You'll do as I say. This isn't yer father demandin' it, but yer King.

The YELLS and SCREAMS of the prisoners as they fight for their freedom ECHOES in the dungeon.

ANYA  
Father, come with us then, please? If it's not safe for me, then it's certainly not safe for ya.

KING ADAIR  
I must stay with me people, and give 'em somethin' to fight for. Ya must give 'em someone to follow.  
(to Atlas)  
Ya have me permission to do whatever is necessary in order to guarantee me daughter's safe departure. Do ya understand?

ATLAS  
Aye yer majesty.

King Adair takes a key out of his robe and unlocks the door.

INT. ARELLA CASTLE - DUNGEON - NIGHT

Anya runs through the door and embraces her father.

KING ADAIR  
There. There now. It's time for ya  
to go.

ANYA  
Father, I...

KING ADAIR  
And I ya, me darlin' daughter.

Anya hugs her father again and he kisses her forehead. There is silence for a moment as they embrace. King Adair pulls away and tries to hide his face. He wipes a tear from his eye.

KING ADAIR  
Now what's with all this sadness?  
It's not as if we'll never see each  
other again. And ye're about to  
embark on a great adventure.

GUARD (O.S.)  
(distant)  
I think I hear voices comin' from  
the dungeon!

KING ADAIR  
Quickly. Anya, I want ya to promise  
me that no matter what you'll not  
come back to help me.

ANYA  
But?

KING ADAIR  
Anya! Promise me!

ANYA  
I promise.

KING ADAIR  
Good.  
(to Atlas)  
I'll hold 'em off as long as I can.  
Noelani and Phoenix are waitin' for  
ya. Please take care of her.

ATLAS  
Ya have me word.

Anya embraces her father one final time.

KING ADAIR  
Ye're me greatest treasure and more  
than I ever could have asked for  
Anya. I was truly blessed the day  
ya were born.

(MORE)

KING ADAIR (CONT'D)

Now go do as ya always do, and make yer father proud.

GUARD (O.S.)

(close  
Quickly, I think he's releasin' the last of the prisoners.

King Adair conjures an orb.

KING ADAIR

Follow the orb and it will take ya out of the castle. Whatever ya do don't look back. Now go, make haste.

King Adair bows his head slightly to Anya, who bows back. A group of guards appear about 500 feet away.

KING ADAIR

Go! Now! I'll remain and hold off the guards as long as I can.

The guards begin to charge.

KING ADAIR

Go!

Atlas begins to run after the orb, followed by Lachlan, who grabs Anya by the elbow in order to force her to flee.

The guards have surrounded King Adair. He is barely visible through the swords and sparks they give off. The King is being overpowered as more and more guards join in the battle. Some take off after the prisoners.

Suddenly a SCREAM is heard. Anya turns around to see her father, but instead sees the guards as they stand still.

One of the soldiers pulls a sword out of a limp body and raises it in the air. It's covered in blood. King Adair is nowhere to be seen.

Anya stops dead in her tracks.

ANYA

No! Father!

She runs back in the direction of her father. Lachlan tries to stop her, but she is too strong. There is a blast of light, and Anya suddenly loses consciousness. She falls into Lachlan's arms.

LACHLAN

Atlas?

ATLAS

I gave me word to her father. Now, let me have her. Keep up.

Lachlan hands Anya to Atlas and they run off after the orb into the dark tunnel.

EXT. CLIFF - LATER

They arrive at the end of the tunnel. As they pant and sweat. Atlas stops short with an unconscious Anya in his arms and they almost fall off a treacherous cliff.

It's a beautiful night with a harvest moon and not a cloud in the sky. The stars seem to be infinite in number. The wind HOWLS. The canopy of trees far below sways and moves with the wind.

LACHLAN

Whoa!

Lachlan backs away from the cliff.

LACHLAN

(pants)

Ya've got to be kiddin' me. Now what?

ATLAS

Give me a moment to think.

LACHLAN

(mumbles)

Follow the orb he says... it'll take ya to safety. Yeah, if safety is fallin' hundreds of feet to what's most likely a very painful death.

(gaining volume)

I swear if I ever meet him again I'll...

ATLAS

Hush! Listen.

They both get very quiet -- numerous and fast FOOTSTEPS are heard as they approach.

LACHLAN

Atlas, they'll be here any minute. Please, tell me ya've some sort of a plan.

ATLAS

I really didn't want it to come down to this. Here, hold Anya for a moment.

Atlas hands Anya to Lachlan and Lachlan struggles a bit with the lifeless body in his arms. SOLDIER #3(33) and SOLDIER #4(42) barrel down on them.

LACHLAN

Atlas!



ATLAS  
Buy me time.

LACHLAN  
God help me!

Lachlan puts Anya down, pulls out his sword with one hand as it trembles. He then grabs Anya's sword with his other. The second he turns, the two soldiers charge him. He fights them both with a sword in each hand.

LACHLAN  
Anytime Atlas!

Atlas removes a very old dusty glass ball from one of his pouches and places it on the floor. He raises his arms to the sky.

ATLAS  
Tempestatis.

As Atlas holds his arms up, the ball levitates, as it fills itself with a lightning storm. The ball floats higher and higher into the air as the storm gains strength.

Light from the oncoming torches appears in the tunnel. The ball explodes and dark clouds RUMBLE quickly cover what was once a cloudless sky.

Rain pours down. The wind gains intensity, It HOWLS. Lightning strikes a nearby boulder and it crashes down the cliff. The lightning continues to strike almost every moment.

ATLAS  
(shrieks)  
Duck!

Lachlan throws himself on top of Anya just in time for another boulder to fall inside the tunnel and crush the two soldiers. Lachlan stands up.

LACHLAN  
Ha ha! That's what I'm talkin' about!

The guards become visible as they dodge the lightning strikes in order to get to the prisoners. Lachlan throws Anya over his shoulder.

A funnel cloud appears and surrounds Atlas, Lachlan, and Anya. Lachlan YELLS as they are carried away from the cliff. SOLDIER #5(27) manages to grab a hold of Lachlan's leg and is carried off as well. Lachlan kicks and shakes, but the guard does not let go.

Lachlan pulls out his sword, closes his eyes, and stabs him. Finally, the guard falls to his death on the jagged rocks below. The tornado continues on, with Noelani and Phoenix a safe distance behind it.

EXT. ELBALAR PLAINS - EARLY MORNING

Lachlan and Anya are still unconscious from their unusual departure from Arella Castle. The sun just peeked out enough for the buds on the beautiful flowers that cover the plains to open.

Phoenix hunts in the distance and Atlas is lies by the fire. Anya looks peaceful but Lachlan is unsettled.

DREAM SEQUENCE - INT. FONDONT CAVES - DARK HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lachlan runs down a dark hallway lit by balls of fire, each in the shape of a single eye. There are shackles on the walls and skeletons on the floor. There is a gate at the end of the hallway. Lachlan runs towards the gate. He hears a voice.

VOICE (O.S.)  
Lachlan! Help me! Lachlan! Help me  
please! Lachlan!

Lachlan arrives at the gate, and throws open the door. Something jumps on top of him. All Lachlan sees are two red eyes that glow.

EXT. ELBALAR PLAINS - EARLY MORNING

Lachlan pops his eyes open, and his torso lurches forward. Atlas jumps to his feet, startled.

LACHLAN  
What's goin' on? Where are we? How  
long have I been asleep?

ATLAS  
Fosa Críost! First, what in the  
bloody hell was that? Second, one  
question at a time.

LACHLAN  
I've just been havin' some weird  
dreams lately. I think it's the  
fear of the unknown or somethin'.

ATLAS  
Completely understandable. But do  
let me know if ya think it's more  
than that, please.

LACHLAN  
(confused)  
Alright.

ATLAS  
Now about yer questions... we're  
safe. It's been about three suns or  
days as ya would call 'em. We're  
far from the Woods of Avalon in The  
Elbalar Plains.

(MORE)

ATLAS (CONT'D)

Ya lost consciousness when we left Arella's Castle and Noelani, Phoenix, and I brought ya and the still unconscious Anya here.

LACHLAN

Speakin' of Anya... What do we do about her?

Anya's eyes open.

ATLAS

I gave her father me word that she wouldn't return until it's safe. So, she's now our ward.

ANYA

I'm sorry. I'm yer what, now?

They're unaware as a poisonous snake slowly curls itself around Anya's feet. Noelani senses it, WHINNIES, and STOMPS his hoof at Lachlan. Lachlan looks at Noelani, and then slowly approaches Anya with his sword drawn.

ATLAS

Lachlan what are ya doin'? I said she's our ward.

ANYA

Please stop Lachlan. Yer startin' to scare me.

LACHLAN

Hush both of ya. Anya, ya need to stay very still and close yer eyes. I need ya to trust me. Can ya do that? Do ya trust me?

Anya nods and closes her eyes. Lachlan quietly raises his sword, and brings it down right between Anya's boots. Lachlan slices the snake in half before it can strike.

Lachlan then lifts up the dead snake and shows it to Anya and Atlas. Atlas jumps back and rears up.

ATLAS

Snakes! I hate snakes! Why did they have to choose a spy that's a snake?

LACHLAN

A spy?

ATLAS

I'm sure of it. Good job Lachlan.  
(beat)  
Now, get rid of that thing.

Lachlan throws both pieces of the snake into a nearby bush, while Atlas looks away.

ANYA  
Thank ya Lachlan.

LACHLAN  
Actually, Noelani deserves the credit for warnin' me telepathically. Without the heads up, I never would have known.

Anya jumps up, runs over to Noelani, and hugs him.

ATLAS  
Good show old boy.

LACHLAN  
Do ya have any idea how poisonous that snake was? Spy or not, that snake was one of the most poisonous reptiles from the human realm.

ANYA  
How do ya know that?

LACHLAN  
I used to work at the Reptile House at the Zoo.

ANYA  
Zoo?

LACHLAN  
It's a place where they gather... never mind, just take me word for it.

Anya looks at Atlas and he nods.

ANYA  
Well, thank ya again Lachlan.

Anya pets Noelani, as Lachlan approaches her.

LACHLAN  
Anya, I'm so sorry if I frightened ya. I'm even more sorry about what happened to yer --

ANYA  
Please, Lachlan. Let's save the apologies and tears until we kill every bein' responsible for me father's murder. That's what he would have wanted.

ATLAS  
Ye're truly yer father's daughter Anya.

Anya tacks up Noelani. Lachlan looks at her with concern. Atlas calls Phoenix back with a whistle. Phoenix lands, Atlas whispers in his ear, and Phoenix flies off.

LACHLAN  
What was that about?

ATLAS  
Never ya mind.

Atlas quenches the fire. Anya gets on Noelani after Lachlan, and they gallop off into the distance.

SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. THE SKY - DAY

Phoenix flies over the Woods of Avalon and SCREECHES the code to prepare for battle to Arella's and King Adair's loyal villagers of fighting age, and those loyal guards who have taken refuge in the Woods of Avalon with them.

INT. WOODS OF AVALON - MOMENTS LATER

Some SHADOWS walk in the canopy. Some of them jump down to the forest floor.

INT. CHAILYA CASTLE - NIGHT

Phoenix flies into one of Chailya Castle's open windows and awakens a SLEEPING GUARD(28) on a stool. He wears a silver robe with a platinum and aquamarine amulet.

EXT. CHAILYA CASTLE - MOMENTS LATER

The soldier runs to Madame Luana's quarters to wake her, but he sees from afar that she's in her undergarments.

He sneaks closer for a better view and finds that she has put her coat on over her undergarments. He watches her put her hair up, and CURSES under his breath. He then runs to her.

INT. CHAILYA CASTLE - MOMENTS LATER

Together Madame Luana and the guard wake the entire castle.

EXT. THE VILLAGE - LATER

The guards spread out around the village and awaken the villagers in order for them to prepare.

EXT. INDRA VALLEY - DAY

There are snow-capped mountains in the distance. Everyone is on guard because they are so exposed. Phoenix flies above.

The rain pours down. The grass is so green that when the rain kisses it, it shimmers like emeralds.

Phoenix joins Atlas, Lachlan, Noelani, and Anya.

Atlas WHISPERS to Phoenix and he flies above to surveil for any enemies.

EXT. NEVA ICE FIELDS - NIGHT

On a field of ice, Anya, Lachlan, Atlas, Noelani, and Phoenix kill some invisible monster DREKAVACS(60's),

Atlas blows fog out of his mouth and the outline of the Drekevacs are exposed.

Anya shoots some with multiple arrows.

Atlas and Lachlan kill the others with their swords.

Phoenix flies to Atlas's shoulder.

After a moment he flies off into the starry night.

EXT. WOODS OF AVALON - DAY

Phoenix flies over and SCREECHES the war cry.

The shadows in the canopy begin to dance. They gather their swords, their bows and arrows, and their provisions. They quietly sneak about the canopy, and make their way to the edge of the woods.

EXT. CHAILYA CASTLE - NIGHT

Phoenix arrives at the castle and finds that the villagers, which includes Ludlow, Lynch, Elwin, and Devlin, have already begun to mobilize under Madame Luana's watchful eye.

Madame Luana tacks up her Dragon STEVENEL/STEVE(39) with her provisions.

The rest of the male villagers and soldiers that cannot fly, or are not four-legged, are already mounted on horses, unicorns, Pegasuses, and centaurs.

They leave Chailya Castle. Phoenix flies off into the night.

EXT. YUVAL FALLS - LATE DAY

Anya, Lachlan, Atlas, and Noelani are at the base of the snow-capped mountains. There's an upside down waterfall, and a river that shimmers.

The river is sea-foam green on the inside, and turquoise on the outside. The river also flows upstream to the waterfall.

Lachlan and his comrades take turns with the water, while the others stand guard.

Anya holds up a wild pheasant she caught. It pours.

They hike up to a cave, behind the upside down waterfall.

INT. YUVAL FALLS - EVENING

Anya, Atlas, Noelani, and Lachlan hike deep into the cave in order to conceal the sight and smell of the fire.

They eat around the fire.

As soon as they are done, they douse the flames.

INT. YUVAL FALLS - MIDNIGHT

Lachlan tosses and turns from a nightmare. All he sees are red demon-like eyes that glow.

END OF SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. WOODS OF AVALON - DAY

Traitorous enemy guards are on patrol on the forest floor. Numerous shadows quietly make their way by the guards in the trees. Then one shadow falls, and a tree quickly sends out ivy to catch him. It's too late!

A GUARD ON PATROL has returned with four others. They look up. Immediately the shadows jump down -- they become ELVES and WOOD NYMPHS.

A few remain in the trees to pick off the remainder of the enemy guards that approach with their bows and arrows, while the sword fight ensues. It's an even match.

Friend against former friend. It seems to take an emotional toll on the loyal ones. Eventually, the Wood Nymphs and Elves kill the last soldier and then they hide in the trees once again, and become SHADOWS once more.

They begin to move through the trees again. Then they reach the edge of the Woods of Avalon and make camp.

EXT. LEWA RIVER - MORNING

Lachlan wakes to find Phoenix asleep on Atlas's watchful shoulder. The sun shines through the trees. When it hits the yellow fish that flies back into the periwinkle water, it casts them in a golden glow. Anya is can't be found.

LACHLAN  
 Mornin'.  
 (nods at Anya's things)  
 Where'd she get off to?

ATLAS  
 She wanted to be useful, so she  
 went to find us some food. Why  
 don't ya see if ya can gather some  
 firewood in the meantime?

Lachlan walks off down river, He CURSES under his breath.

EXT. SIREN'S RIVER - DAY

Lachlan weaves in and out of the forest always staying near the river.

He suddenly hears a woman HUMMING. He stops, and moves towards the sound. He can hear his HEARTBEAT as he approaches.

He reaches the trees along the riverbank. He slowly moves closer and closer until he finds a bathing Anya.

Upon realizing what he is seeing, Lachlan trips and falls, giving away his location. Anya turns around. Lachlan closes his eyes and stumbles to his feet.

LACHLAN  
 I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to... I  
 mean Atlas told me to gather  
 some... I'm so sorry.

Lachlan now has his hand over his eyes. Anya has gotten out of the water.

ANYA  
 Ya act like ya've never seen a  
 naked woman before??  
 (beat)  
 Oh, I see.  
 (beat)  
 It's beautiful, isn't it?

LACHLAN  
 (unable to speak)  
 Pardon...? But... to what are ya  
 refferin'?

Lachlan begins blushing, while Anya looks over with a smirk as she dresses.

ANYA  
 What do ya think I'm refferin' too?

Lachlan sweats and is getting red.

LACHLAN  
 I.. Um... I...



ANYA  
Ya can look now.

LACHLAN  
What? Oh.. Right...

ANYA  
And try to relax? I'm a woman, not  
a peryton.

Lachlan still blushes, as he slowly opens his eyes. Anya giggles while she watches him first look through his fingers and then puts his hand down all together.

Lachlan gets back on his hands and knees and gathers the firewood. Anya now puts on her shoes. She looks at Lachlan, half amused and half annoyed.

ANYA  
Well, come along then.

Lachlan gets up, tries to walk, but trips over his own feet, and the wood falls again. Anya rolls her eyes, walks over to him, and begins to help him gather the wood.

EXT. LEWA RIVER FOREST - LATER

Anya and Lachlan walk through the forest to hunt for food.

LACHLAN  
(quietly)  
Ventus!

The wind picks up. This causes the leaves on a bush to shake vigorously. A hare pops out, and Anya shoots an arrow at it but misses.

ANYA  
Cac!

They continue to walk.

LACHLAN  
Anya... I know ya probably don't  
want to hear this, but I really am  
sorry about yer father.

ANYA  
Yer right. I don't. They are empty  
words without action. And it's not  
ya that needs to be sorry. It's  
Marek! And I can promise ya he will  
be!

Anya marches quickly forward. An intense emotion on her face.

LACHLAN  
We will leave him fer ya to take  
care of!

ANYA  
Thank ya.

LACHLAN  
But that's not why I wanted to talk to ya. Look, I didn't know him very well, but he seemed like an incredible King, person, and father.

ANYA  
He was.  
(beat)  
I remember when I was a wee thing he used to take special time to spend with just me and me mum.

Anya stops and smiles warmly.

ANYA  
He used to put his feet under me stomach, and lift me in the air as if I were flyin' all by meself like a Dragon. He took me on special getaways. Just him and I, whenever he could. He'd read to me every night, and he taught me how to shoot. Speakin' of which?

Lachlan smiles warmly at Anya, but then looks down.

ANYA  
Lachlan. 'ello?  
(beat)  
Lachlan!

LACHLAN  
Umm...? What?  
(beat)  
Right, I'm sorry. Ya have one of those voices.

ANYA  
Nice.  
(beat)  
Well...

Lachlan laughs.

LACHLAN  
Ventus!

The wind picks up again and shakes the leaves in the brush, only this time no game emerges. They continue to walk.

LACHLAN  
Ya know ye're lucky ya have so many great memories with yer father don't ya? I only have that one I told ya about.

ANYA

One?

LACHLAN

One. He left me mum and I when I was just wee little thing, and never came back. Now, I'm riskin' me life to save the father that I've never really known.

ANYA

Well, at least both of yer parents are still alive. I'd give anythin' for that.

LACHLAN

And I'd give anythin' to have a childhood like yers.

Anya smirks. A deer pops out of the forest and Anya shoots it. They run over to gather their food. As they kneel over their kill -- the ground gives way beneath them.

INT. SINKHOLE - MOMENTS LATER

Lachlan, Anya, and the deer carcass hit the ground with a THUD. Lachlan tries to get to his feet, while he simultaneously shakes the dirt off his clothes.

Anya's leg is pinned by the deer. Spiderwebs surround them with large spiders on them.

LACHLAN

I really wish that would stop happenin' to me.

ANYA

(struggles)

What are ya talkin' about? We just fell through a sinkhole.

(frustrated)

Will ya help me, please?

LACHLAN

(laughs softly)

Yeah, sorry.

Lachlan kneels down and pushes the deer carcass off of Anya's leg. He then gets to his feet and helps Anya to hers.

LACHLAN

Where are we?

ANYA

I don't know, but we need to find a way to get the hell outta here.

LACHLAN

Okay m'lady.

Lachlan smirks.

LACHLAN  
Exiguum orbem.

A small orb appears and lights the sinkhole.

ANYA  
Are ya insane? Ye're gonna get us  
both killed. Put it out!

Lachlan waves his hand through the orb and it vanishes. Sweat glistens on his face.

LACHLAN  
Are ya hot?

ANYA  
Cac! We need to get out of here  
now. Look for a way out! Feel the  
walls.

Lachlan and Anya quickly run their hands all over the walls of the sinkhole, they move the spiderwebs, spiders, and ivy out of their way as they go. Lachlan stops, looks back at Anya.

LACHLAN  
Anya! I found a way out.

ANYA  
Thank the heavens!

Anya walks towards Lachlan, when an IGNIS AMBULARE(49) appears. It's soulless, eyeless, and its body is covered in orange and red flames.

Lachlan quickly stabs it and nothing happens. It moves in for the kill when Anya hits it with an arrow.

ANYA  
(screams)  
Hey!

It turns its head towards her.

ANYA  
That's right. Come here ya ugly son  
of a bitch.

IGNIS AMBULARE  
I'm gonna kill ya.

ANYA  
Prove it.

It moves towards Anya, shoves Lachlan out of the way, and catches his sleeve on fire. Lachlan pats it out.

LACHLAN  
 Anya! I know what to do! Tempus  
 Vernum!

A small rain cloud appears above the sinkhole. It pours. Mud and rocks slide down the walls and gather at the bottom. Nothing happens to the Ignis Ambulare.

ANYA  
 Ya idiot! Ye're gonna bury us  
 alive!

As the Ignis Ambulare approaches Anya, Lachlan grabs a rock, and throws it at it. It turns its head, and begins to charge towards Lachlan. Anya starts to move towards the cave entrance.

ANYA  
 Hey! I thought ya were gonna kill  
 me.

The mud gets thicker beneath their feet. The Ignis Ambulare stops dead in its tracks.

IGNIS AMBULARE  
 Wait yer turn!

In those few seconds, Lachlan begins to move towards the entrance, while he struggles in the mud. Anya shoots another arrow.

ANYA  
 Ya look like somethin' that came  
 out of a Goblin's arse.

The Ignis Ambulare is distracted by Anya, and its flames continue to get bigger as its anger rises. Lachlan is almost at the entrance by Anya.

LACHLAN  
 Saxa!

Suddenly, boulders fall from above.

LACHLAN  
 Anya! Look out!

Lachlan jumps onto Anya, just as a bunch of large boulders are about to fall on her. They land with a THUMP right outside the entrance to the sinkhole.

Lachlan lies on top of Anya. The Ignis Ambulare is buried alive inside.

INT. FONDONT CAVES - SINKHOLE ENTRANCE - DAY

Lachlan and Anya lie in the dark, and try to catch their breath.

ANYA  
Can ya please get off of me? I  
can't breathe.

LACHLAN  
Sure. Sorry.

Lachlan gets up and offers his hand to Anya which she gladly takes.

ANYA  
That won't hold him for long. We  
need to get outta here.

LACHLAN  
But he is buried alive?

The boulders start to tremble.

ANYA  
I know. Now hug the walls.

INT. FONDONT CAVES - DAY

Lachlan and Anya quickly make their way through the cave. To their surprise, when the trail narrows and opens into a cavern, they almost fall. The cavern is filled with giant stalagmites and stalactites.

They are about 100 feet above the cavern floor. Water ROARS as it pours down from an underground waterfall into a giant blue lake. The cavern floor is also covered by trees.

ANYA  
Stay close and don't look down.

They make their way around the cavern.

LACHLAN  
What was that thin' back there?

ANYA  
That was an Ignis Ambulare.

Lachlan looks confused.

ANYA  
A Fire Walker?  
(beat)  
They are Warlocks who embraced dark magic in order to become immortal. The price was the highest ya can pay. First, there was the loss of their sight. Then, they were condemned to burn for eternity with the fire of a thousand suns. Finally, and worst of all, they lose their souls. That's why, when the temperature quickly rises, ya know an Ignis Ambulare is nearby.

LACHLAN  
That doesn't sound too pleasant.

ANYA  
When ye're an Ignis Ambulare,  
burnin' is simply like havin' a hot  
flash that won't stop.

They both chuckle.

LACHLAN  
All kiddin' aside, how do we stop  
him?

ANYA  
We don't. There is no way to stop  
an Ignis Ambulare. We simply have  
to get out of here before he finds  
us again.

Lachlan notices something shiny on Anya's upper lip. He touches it and realizes it's sweat. He looks back and sees the Ignis Ambulare as it stands at the entrance to the cavern.

LACHLAN  
Run!

Lachlan and Anya run to the other side of the cavern, where there is another cave. Rocks slip from under their feet and make a CRACKING sound as they hit the cavern floor far below.

The Ignis Ambulare gains on them. Lachlan sees a slit in the wall with a bit of light that seems to come from it. Lachlan thinks it's an exit, so he grabs Anya by the arm, and pulls her into what turns out to be the entrance to an altar room.

INT. FONDONT CAVES - ALTAR ROOM - DAY

Lachlan and Anya can't believe their eyes. In front of them, is a room with blue fire on the walls, floor, and ceiling of one side, and orange and red fire on the other.

There is one small path that leads to an altar in the middle of the room. The altar is made of stone with gold inlay, surrounded by rushing water.

The water comes from a RUSHING river behind the altar. On the altar is a very large old book covered with cobwebs.

ANYA  
It can't be! I thought it was just  
a legend. I mean I've heard  
stories, but I never thought it was  
real!

LACHLAN  
That what was real?

ANYA  
 Besides ya tryin' to help, I think  
 ya might have actually helped!  
 That's the Book of Ignis. It allows  
 us to control any Ignis Ambulare we  
 come in contact with. It's been  
 lost for centuries.

LACHLAN  
 Well, then why are we just standin'  
 here? Let's get it.

Lachlan is about to take a step into the altar room when Anya stops him.

ANYA  
 I swear it's like babysittin' a two-  
 year-old. How about we first check  
 if there are any traps in place, so  
 we don't die!

Lachlan rolls his eyes.

LACHLAN  
 Ye're no fun!

Anya shoots an arrow into the room. Fireballs from all sides in blue and orange/red INCINERATE the arrow.

LACHLAN  
 Damn! Now, what do we do?  
 (beat)  
 What if I held back the fireballs,  
 while ya go get the book?

ANYA  
 It's the only idea we've got, and  
 we don't have much time so let's do  
 it.

Anya readies herself, makes sure everything is securely fastened to her. She faces the altar.

ANYA  
 Ready?

Lachlan nods and Anya takes a step forward. Fireballs from all directions fly at her.

LACHLAN  
 Globos ignis frigore!

The fireballs freeze in midair. Anya starts to run, as Lachlan holds back the fireballs. She reaches the Book of Ignis. Anya picks it up carefully. As she does, the river water starts to rise.

A loud ROAR can be heard. Anya looks over her shoulder, and sees a wave of water about to drown her. She starts to run. The water crashes on Anya and Lachlan at the entrance to the altar room. It carries them back out into the cavern.



INT. FONDONT CAVES - CAVERN - DAY

Lachlan frantically looks around for Anya.

LACHLAN  
 Anya! Anya! Where are ya!  
 (beat)  
 Anya!

Anya appears out of the dark.

ANYA  
 Will ya keep quiet! I'm fine.  
 (beat)  
 And look what I got!

Anya shows off the Book of Ignis.

LACHLAN  
 Oh me God! I can't believe ya  
 managed to hang on to it. Yer  
 amazin'!

Lachlan hugs Anya, lifts her up and spins her around. She laughs. He puts her down. For a brief moment their eyes lock. They kiss. When they realize what they are doing they quickly pull away.

ANYA  
 So, um, there should be a spell in  
 here to give us control over an  
 Ignis Ambulare.

Anya flips through the book, amazed at all the different spells. Sweat drips off Anya's face, and onto the book.

Anya looks up and sees the Ignis Ambulare as he stands 100 feet away. In response to her expression, Lachlan looks over his shoulder and sees him as well.

LACHLAN  
 Quickly! Find the spell!

Anya flips through the pages in the book as quickly as she can until she finally finds the spell. The Ignis Ambulare has almost reached them. She hands the book to Lachlan.

ANYA  
 Be careful of Feronia. From what I  
 hear ya could possibly become an  
 Ignis Ambulare yerself if it  
 pleases her. Or even get cursed.  
 So, be careful.

Anya runs over to keep the Ignis Ambulare occupied. She runs circles around him while she chucks rocks at his head.

LACHLAN  
 (to himself)  
 Here goes everythin'.  
 (beat)  
 (MORE)

LACHLAN (CONT'D)

Feroniae mei dilectissimi. Potest  
par esse potentiam tuam. Tantum  
peto. Da mihi potestatem et  
imperium in saecula Ignis ambulare  
in aere.

The Ignis Ambulare turns to stone right before their eyes. Then a half-blue, half-orange/red fireball materializes in front of them and takes the shape of a beautiful woman's head.

It's FERONIA(25). Her head is made up of the two different colors of fire, and has a South African accent.

FERONIA

Young O'Malley, I was wondering if  
I'd ever get the pleasure. I'll  
grant your plea -- however, your  
not the first that's come to me  
asking this favor.

LACHLAN

Who else has made a request of ya?

FERONIA

I'm sorry Lachlan, but I'm not a  
genie. You only get to ask one  
favor of me, and you asked it. You  
can now control any Ignis Ambulare  
you come into contact with by  
simply saying, "Quia dominabitur  
tui." The Ignis Ambulare will turn  
from red/orange to blue/purple when  
you have control. Good luck, young  
O'Malley.

Feronia then disappears as quickly as she materialized. The Ignis Ambulare suddenly comes back to life and lunges at Anya. This catches both Lachlan and Anya off guard.

Lachlan pulls Anya back as the Ignis Ambulare hits the ground with a THUD.

ANYA

Lachlan, quick!

LACHLAN

Quia dominabitur tui!

The Ignis Ambulare changes from red/orange to blue/purple right before their eyes.

LACHLAN

Let's test this out. Get up.

The Ignis Ambulare climbs to its feet.

LACHLAN

Go stand guard.

The Ignis Ambulare walks over to a where the cave opens and begins to stand guard.

ANYA  
Now that was savage!

LACHLAN  
What do we do with the book?

ANYA  
We keep it. There are a ton of spells in here that I didn't even know existed. We're fortunate that the person that came before us was dumb enough to leave it behind.

LACHLAN  
They probably thought they could come back for it, and that no one would find it. After all, it was pure dumb luck that we did.

ANYA  
Very true Lachlan, very true. So, it's settled. I'll hold onto the book for us. There's a pocket here in me quiver that should be perfect.

Anya puts the book in her quiver.

ANYA  
Look at that. Perfect fit. Now, let's grab our new friend and try to get the hell out of here.

LACHLAN  
Hey, fire crotch, come with us.

The Ignis Ambulare follows Lachlan and Anya.

INT. FONDONT CAVES - DAY

As they hike deeper into the caves Lachlan realizes that things are starting to look familiar. He finds that the three of them are in a dark tunnel just like in his dream.

Lachlan slowly creeps against the wall, rather than run down the tunnel. Anya and the Ignis Ambulare follow his lead. He sees a light ahead and drops to the floor.

Lachlan begins to military crawl to a cliff that overlooks a cavern. He watches as huge Cyclops, Goblins, Ignis Ambulare, and Wendigos build a castle in the cave.

LACHLAN  
(quietly)  
I know for a fact that me father's bein' kept down here somewhere. I can't tell ya how I know, nor can I tell ya exactly where, but I know he's down here.

Anya puts her hand on Lachlan's shoulder.

ANYA  
Then we'll find him.

Just as Anya removes her hand from Lachlan's shoulder, a Goblin(47) looks up and sees her. He SNARLS loudly and charges up towards them. Others soon join him.

LACHLAN  
(to the Ignis Ambulare)  
Stay behind, and do whatever ya  
have to do in order to protect us.

The Ignis Ambulare nods its head and prepares itself. Anya starts to walk along the cavern wall.

LACHLAN  
(whispering)  
I gotta bad feelin' about this.

Lachlan joins Anya. The two run along the cavern wall to a tunnel on the other side.

Right before they go in, Anya looks back and sees as the Ignis Ambulare is attacked. The Ambulare sets everything that it attacks on fire.

INT. FONDONT CAVES - DARK HALLWAY - DAY

Lachlan and Anya run down a dark hallway lit by balls of fire, each in the shape of a single eye. There are shackles on the walls and skeletons on the floor. There's a gate at the end of the hallway.

Lachlan and Anya runs towards the gate. They are being chased by Wendigos, Cyclops, Goblins, and Ignis Ambulare. Anya shoots arrows behind her, and she picks off some of the enemy as they approach. They hear a voice --

VOICE (O.S.)  
Lachlan! Help me! Lachlan! Help me  
please! Lachlan!

LACHLAN  
Anya, stay close.

Anya nods as she picks off a Wendigo. They all appear to close in. Anya desperately tries to hold them off, but she can't.

INT. FONDONT CAVES - GATE - DAY

Lachlan arrives at the gate and is about to throw open the door.

ANYA  
Lachlan! Help me!

VOICE (O.S.)  
Lachlan! Help me! Lachlan! Help me  
please! Lachlan!

Lachlan turns around.

LACHLAN  
Quia dominabitur tui!

The few Ignis Ambulare in the hallway turn blue purple.

LACHLAN  
Impetus!

The Ignis Ambulare start to attack the Wendigos, Goblins, Cyclops, and other Ignis Ambulare. Lachlan is about to turn around when something swings open the gate and jumps on top of him.

All Lachlan sees are two red eyes that glow. As he struggles, he feels and sees foam covered fangs as they inch closer to his neck. He hears Anya SCREAM. He looks up and realizes that she has been pinned against the wall by two Cyclops.

Lachlan looks past the gate and sees a very weak, thin, and filthy man in rags and shackles. He MUMBLES Lachlan's name.

LACHLAN  
Father!

Lachlan tries to fight back. He loses consciousness and physical strength so quickly, that he can't remember his spells. The huge wolf on top of him lets out a pained ROAR.

DEVLIN  
Git aff av'im yer wanker!

Lachlan gasps for breath. He looks around and sees Atlas, Anya, Elwin, and some of the other villagers as they fight. Devlin helps Lachlan to his feet.

LACHLAN  
It's good to see ya.

The wolf gets onto all four feet, then onto its hind legs, and then it morphs into a clothed human. He wears black silk robes with ivory embroidery, and a white gold and red rubellite amulet with black jade in the middle.

MAKANI  
(growls)  
Too bad it's the last thin' you'll  
be seein'.

DEVLIN  
Mak!

LACHLAN  
Ya!

Makani circles Lachlan and Devlin

MAKANI  
 (gravelly)  
 Surprise!  
 (beat)  
 Devlin, me old friend, I don't want  
 to hurt ya. Join me and me  
 rebellion. Ya owe nothin' to 'em.

Makani SNARLS and GROWLS.

MAKANI  
 Ye're payin' for somethin' ya  
 didn't even do. Join me now and  
 take a stand.

DEVLIN  
 Oi bloody die first.

Makani GROWLS.

MAKANI  
 (through gritted teeth)  
 So be it.

Makani charges them.

INT. FONDONT CAVES - DARK HALLWAY - DAY

Ludlow and Lynch have fought their way over to Anya.

LYNCH  
 Take that ya tosser.

Lynch pulls his sword out of a Wendigo and Ludlow pulls his  
 out of a Goblin.

LUDLOW  
 'ello, me dear. I'm Ludlow.

Ludlow bows and stabs a Cyclops accidentally.

LYNCH  
 And I'm Lynch.

Lynch bows.

LUDLOW & LYNCH  
 And I'm 'ere to rescue ya.

Ludlow and Lynch flash each other dirty looks.

LYNCH  
 I'm rescuin' her.

LUDLOW  
 No, brother, I'm rescuin' her.

LYNCH  
 No, I am!

Lynch yanks on Anya's right arm.

LUDLOW  
No, I am!

Ludlow yanks on Anya's left arm.

LYNCH  
Don't yank on her! She's been  
through enough already.

Ludlow shoves Lynch.

LUDLOW  
Don't tell me what to do.

Lynch shoves Ludlow back. They start to wrestle.

ANYA  
Ya've got to be kiddin' me?

Anya tries to break up the fight, while she attempts to fight off the enemy.

ANYA  
Atlas! Atlas, help!

Atlas and Lachlan both look over and see Ludlow and Lynch as they wrestle each other. They forget their initial task to get to Anya. An Ignis Ambulare charges them.

ATLAS  
Peridot ya idiots!

Atlas fights off a Wendigo and Cyclops at the same time. Ludlow and Lynch look at each other.

LUDLOW & LYNCH  
To be continued.

They each put an arm around Anya and and raise their right hands.

LUDLOW & LYNCH  
Toodles...

Ludlow and Lynch wave with their fingers and vanish.

INT. FONDONT CAVES - GATE - DAY

Makani gets to his feet.

DEVLIN  
(whispers)  
Whaen yer git de opportunity, grab  
'is majesty. Den git back ter me.  
I'll keep Mak jammers. Watch for me  
signal.

Devlin charges Makani. Lachlan takes it as the signal and goes into the cell to retrieve his very sickly father.

INT. FONDONT CAVES - PRISON CELL - DAY

Lachlan runs over to his father.

LACHLAN  
Father!

KING KYROS  
Lachlan? Lachlan can that really be ya? After all this time? No! This is another one of his tricks.

King Kyros scurries to the back of his cell.

LACHLAN  
What has he done to ya?  
(beat)  
Come on. We're gonna get ya out of here.

Lachlan walks to the back of the cell and reaches for King Kyros's shackles, when the King suddenly puts his shakey hands on Lachlan's face.

KING KYROS  
Wait! Are ya really me Lachlan?

Lachlan nods.

KING KYROS  
Let me look at ya.  
(beat)  
Ye're so grown up. So handsome.

King Kyros grabs Lachlan's hand.

KING KYROS  
Lachlan, there is so much I want to...

LACHLAN  
Now isn't the best time. However, we'll have plenty of time when we get out of here.

Lachlan smiles at his father. His father nods and squeezes Lachlan's hand. Lachlan grabs his father's shackles with one hand and moves his other hand over them.

LACHLAN  
Recludam!

The shackles unlock and fall to the side. Lachlan helps his father up and slowly out of the cell.



INT. FONDONT CAVES - GATE - DAY

Devlin has Makani on his knees and forces his sword, at the same moment when Lachlan and King Kyros come out of the cell. Devlin looks over and sees that Lachlan has the King. He kicks Makani across the room before he can make a move.

DEVLIN  
De bigger ya are, de 'arder ya  
fall.

LACHLAN  
Devlin!

Devlin runs over to Lachlan and the King. Devlin grabs the other side of the King.

DEVLIN  
Is yer man 'urt?

LACHLAN  
We need to get him out of here.

Devlin nods.

DEVLIN  
(to the King)  
'Owl on sir.  
(beat)  
Atlas, now!

Makani struggles to get to his feet.

INT. FONDONT CAVES - DARK HALLWAY - DAY

Atlas looks over and sees that Devlin has the King and Lachlan.

ATLAS  
Peridot!

Everyone begins to vanish.

INT. FONDONT CAVES - GATE - DAY

Makani grabs his sword.

DEVLIN  
Tuar ceatha!

The very slightest mist of a rainbow appears. Lachlan, King Kyros, and Devlin begin to disappear.

MAKANI  
(growls)  
No!

Makani lunges at Lachlan with his sword but Devlin throws himself in front of it. They vanish.

EXT. RENNY GLEN - DUSK

Lachlan, King Kyros, and Devlin reappear in a very green glen. That slight hint of a rainbow mist vanishes. As they look around, and they are surrounded by all-out war.

Elves from the Woods of Avalon and the villagers from Chailya Castle are fighting Cyclops, Wendigos, Shapeshifters, Ignis Ambulare, Goblins, and PERYTONS(40-90).

Perytons look like a cross between a giant eagle and a demonic fanged-toothed stag. Their wings are green, 7 feet long and 5 feet tall.

They also have purple heads with blue chests. Their talons are as sharp as razors. Their antlers are black and as strong as steel. Their mouths are filled with jagged fangs.

They pick up the Elves and villagers and drop them from great heights. They then feed on the hearts of the dead and the maimed.

It's difficult to hear anything over the SCREAMS and YELLS of soldiers as they slowly die and give into their injuries.

Devlin falls forward onto Lachlan. Lachlan's father helps Lachlan get Devlin to the floor. Lachlan tries to apply pressure to the Leprechaun's wound.

LACHLAN

Devlin! Oh me God! Devlin!

DEVLIN

Did we make it? Is 'is 'ighness safe?

Lachlan looks at Devlin's wound and realizes it's fatal and that no magic or medicine can heal him. He smiles warmly at Devlin.

LACHLAN

Yes Devlin, he's safe. Ya did yer job, and Ye're a hero because of it.

(holding back tears)

Now, why don't ya close yer eyes and get some rest.

DEVLIN

(weak)

Lachlan, please tell Elwin dat me loot is 'is.

LACHLAN

Stop it Devlin. Ya can tell him yerself.

DEVLIN

I'm sorry if oi wus such an arse  
ter yer back at de castle. Oi jist  
didn't believe dat yer were de wan  
meant ter save us.

(grabs Lachlan's hand)

But nigh oi believe. Lachlan...

LACHLAN

Hush. Save yer strength.

DEVLIN

Naw, listen yisser life means more  
den al' av ours put together. Oi nu  
me fait an' oi 'av accepted it. Ya  
must save dem al' from evil,  
Lachlan.

(extremely weak and  
desperate)

Promise me ya will.

LACHLAN

I promise.

When Devlin hears Lachlan promise, his body instantly  
relaxes. Lachlan watches as the life leaves Devlin's eyes. He  
then closes his friend's eyes and takes his sword.

Lachlan feels a hand on his shoulder.

KING KYROS

I'm sorry Lachlan. Devlin was a  
good man. Not many people saw it  
due to his grumpy exterior. Beneath  
it beat a loyal and lovin' heart.  
He will be honored for his  
sacrifice.

A Cyclops charges King Kyros and Lachlan. Lachlan scrambles  
on the floor to get up as the Cyclops is taken out by a  
fireball.

When Lachlan looks, he sees the original Ignis Ambulare that  
he first converted. It bows its head and Lachlan does the  
same. It joins the fight.

LACHLAN

We need to get ya out of here.  
Makani could be here any minute.

Lachlan calls for Noelani psychically. He flies in the air  
with Phoenix. They dart by fireballs and Perytons. Noelani  
lands in front of Lachlan. Phoenix joins the battle.

NOELANI

How may I be of service?

LACHLAN

Take his majesty directly back to  
the castle. I'm trustin' ya  
Noelani.

Noelani nods.

KING KYROS  
Lachlan, come with me. It's too  
dangerous for ya here.

LACHLAN  
I can't. Devlin gave his life for  
mine. I gave him me word that I'd  
not let our worlds turn evil. I  
have to stay and fight until Makani  
is dead.

KING KYROS  
But Lachlan!

LACHLAN  
Don't start!

KING KYROS  
Alright. But do be careful.

Lachlan nods. He helps his father onto Noelani's back.

NOELANI  
Hold on tight, yer majesty.

Lachlan lightly SMACKS Noelani on his hind quarters and he  
gracefully takes off into the air. Lachlan watches as he  
dodges fireballs, and moves over and under Perytons until he  
is gone from sight.

Lachlan sees Makani materialize across the glen. He begins to  
fight his way over to him, but he can't get close. It's an  
uneven fight.

Villagers and Elves literally fall from the sky left and  
right. They are outnumbered 6 to 1. A SCREECH is heard.  
Phoenix tries to blind the Perytons with his claws.

Elwin gets stabbed in the arm by a Goblin. Atlas has a hard  
time as he fights an Ignis Ambulare. Lachlan kills the  
Wendigo in front of him and gets close enough to Atlas to  
transform the Ignis Ambulare.

LACHLAN  
Quia dominabitur tui!

The Ignis Ambulare turns from red/orange to blue/purple.

LACHLAN  
Help Elwin!  
(points to Elwin)  
Him! Then begin to kill anyone who  
isn't from Chailya Castle or who  
isn't from the Woods of Avalon.

The Ignis Ambulare runs over to where Elwin is. In the  
process, he sets some Wendigos and Cyclops on fire. The Ignis  
Ambulare kills the Goblin and then joins the fight once more.

ATLAS  
Thank ya Lachlan.

LACHLAN  
Don't thank me yet. Our numbers are  
dwindln'. Their men far outnumber  
ours. I fear all might be lost.

EXT. SKY - MOMENTS LATER

Overhead can be heard DRAGONS(40-80) ROARING. Madame Luana flies on the back of her dragon Steve/Stevenel. She commands the other Dragons to follow her lead.

Despite their ferocious appearance, their beautiful, bright-colored, reptilian skin lights up the sky.

MADAME LUANA  
Farusha!

Fire is being blown all over the sky.

MADAME LUANA  
Ataan!

The Dragons attack. Perytons drop from the sky. One by one, the Dragons pick off the enemy. Wendigos, Cyclops, Shapeshifters, and Goblins are being picked up by the Dragons.

Some die after they are dropped from the sky. Others are first killed by the Dragons in the air.

Phoenix has joined the fight on the ground. With his long sharp talons and beak, he blinds and injures as many enemy soldiers as he can.

He lands on a Cyclops's head, anchors himself into it with his talons and pecks the Cyclops's eye out.

Madame Luana throws her arms around Steve/Stevenel's neck.

MADAME LUANA  
Steve! Gara daru!

Steve/Stevenel ducks. He narrowly misses a fireball that was launched by an Ignis Ambulare.

EXT. RENNY GLEN - MOMENTS LATER

Makani gets close to Lachlan. Lachlan kills a shapeshifter. He sees a fireball narrowly miss Madame Luana.

LACHLAN  
Quia dominabitur tui!

The Ignis Ambulare that sent up the fireball turns from red/orange to blue/ purple.

LACHLAN  
Go kill yer comrádaithe.

The Ignis Ambulare nods and joins the fight once more. Makani SNARLS at Lachlan.

MAKANI  
(gravelly)  
Very impressive Lachlan. I see I should've taken the Book of Ignis with me. Well, it's no matter, ye're gonna die nonetheless. This way just makes it more fun for me.

LACHLAN  
I wouldn't be too sure about that.

MAKANI  
(growls)  
Dearmo!

LACHLAN  
Dearmo!

They both fly in opposite directions.

MAKANI  
(growls)  
Atlas has taught ya well.

LACHLAN  
(angrily screams)  
Globus Ignis!

A fireball flies at Makani.

MAKANI  
(gravelly)  
Glacies.

The fireball turns to ice in midair, falls, and SMASHES all over the ground.

MAKANI  
(growls)  
Come on, ya can do better than that.

LACHLAN  
Saggitas.

All the used arrows all over the glen that are stuck in dead bodies, remove themselves and begin to levitate. They then quickly fly towards Makani.

MAKANI  
(gravelly)  
Saggitae usque ad pulverem.

The arrows disintegrate to dust and vanish right before they hit Makani.

MAKANI  
 (growls)  
 Grrreat! Yer showin' improvement.

LACHLAN  
 Don't patronize me. Why are ya  
 doin' this to us? Me father saved  
 yer life!

MAKANI  
 (laughs insanely)  
 Is that what they told ya?  
 (growls angrily)  
 Yer father beheaded me father right  
 in front of me and me best friends.  
 He forced us to watch! Now, I'm  
 gonna kill everyone he loves, both  
 in this realm and the human realm.  
 I'll put all their heads on pikes  
 for him to see. Then I'll cast him  
 into the dungeon while I become  
 absolute ruler of both realms. All  
 because of what he did. Kyros will  
 live out his days watchin' his  
 beloved kingdoms be taken under me  
 control. It's just as me father  
 would have wanted.

LACHLAN  
 Yer father was evil. He almost  
 killed his entire kingdom. Me  
 father spared ya and yer best  
 friends when he didn't have to. He  
 saw good in ya. He was clearly  
 wrong. Ya've hurt good people. It's  
 time someone protects 'em. It's  
 time ya pay for what ya've done.

MAKANI  
 (gravelly)  
 Really?  
 (laughs)  
 Ya couldn't even protect Devlin.

Lachlan's eyes grow dark.

LACHLAN  
 Globus Ignis! Dearmo! Globus Ignis!

Makani flies through the air. He struggles to get up.

LACHLAN  
 Herba!

The grass begins to grow up around Makani's ankles and around  
 his legs. He can't move.

LACHLAN  
 Impetum apes!

Bees swarm around Makani, and begin to sting him. Makani  
 HOWLS from the pain.

MAKANI  
 (growls)  
 Apes duratus!

The bees freeze in midair and fall to the ground. Lachlan is already in mid-charge with his sword. Lachlan and Makani fight. Makani strikes at Lachlan and cuts his arm.

Makani is still unable to move his legs. Lachlan uses this to his advantage. He strikes Makani and stabs his shoulder. Makani transforms into a bird and flies about 10 feet away. He then shifts back to his human form.

MAKANI  
 (growls intensely)  
 I've changed me mind. After I kill ya, I'm gonna slowly bleed yer father dry. Then I'm gonna go to yer realm, shapeshift into yer father, and have a wee fun with yer mum. Who knows? Maybe I'll let her live, and after I take over she can become me personal slave.

The wind gets eerie calm. Dark storm clouds quickly appear. Lachlan stands calmly in the middle of the battle. He stares at Makani. A Peryton falls out of the air and narrowly misses Lachlan, but Lachlan still doesn't move.

A bolt of lightning can be seen in Lachlan's eyes. For the first time, Makani looks really scared.

MAKANI  
 (growls)  
 Gehennum ignis!

A giant stream of fire bursts from Makani's hand and heads towards Lachlan. Lachlan raises his hand. The fire bounces off of his hand and hits Miakoda, just as he is about to kill an elf.

MAKANI  
 (howls)  
 No!!

Makani runs over to Miakoda.

LACHLAN  
 (under his breath)  
 Congelo.

Makani's legs freeze in place.

MAKANI.  
 (growls)  
 Globus ignis!

A fireball speeds straight for Lachlan. He lifts his hand and absorbs it.



MAKANI  
 (growls)  
 Gladius!

All the swords from the fallen levitate. They fly from all directions at top speed to kill Lachlan. He merely raises his arms and lowers them and the swords drop. Lachlan still has lightning in his eyes.

MAKANI  
 (gravelly)  
 You'll never win, boy!

Lachlan's eyes turn black. Lachlan doesn't utter a word, and yet grass and ivy around Makani's feet grows. Makani is bound in place.

A bolt of lightning strikes Makani. Both Lachlan and Makani fly through the air.

Makani lies dead -- impaled on a tree 30 feet away. When Lachlan lands, his head hits a rock. As he loses consciousness, the battle continues around him.

INT. CHAILYA CASTLE - LACHLAN'S BEDROOM - DAYS LATER

Lachlan is asleep back in his room at Chailya Castle. The walls are made of grey stone. The ceiling mimicks the sun outside. There is one arched window that the sun begins to pour through.

Phoenix sits on the window ledge as he watches Lachlan sleep. In front of his bed is a fireplace. The fire has taken the shape of an eagle airborne. There are two chairs on a rug right in front of it. Anya is asleep in one of them.

Atlas is awake by Lachlan's bedside. He brushes a hair from Lachlan's forehead.

Lachlan's eyes suddenly pop open.

LACHLAN  
 I'll kill ya!!  
 (looks around)  
 Wait... Atlas?

ATLAS  
 Lachlan? Thank the heavens! Guard!

Anya jumps up from her chair.

ANYA  
 Is he awake?

Anya approaches the bed as the GUARD(42) enters the room.

GUARD  
 Ya called, sir?

ATLAS  
Aye, tell the King that Lachlan has finally awakened. Also, fetch Madame Luana.

GUARD  
Aye, sir.

The guard smiles at Lachlan as he leaves.

LACHLAN  
Atlas! What in the bloody hell happened? Is Makani dead?

ATLAS  
Thanks to ya, me dear boy! I have never seen anythin' like it. Ya possess a power that has been lost for generations. Ya were able to summon lightnin'! Lightnin'! After the lightnin' killed Makani, his army went into full retreat.

ANYA  
I heard it was amazin'! Unfortunately, I didn't get to see it, because Ludlow and Lynch peridoted me back to the castle. I wish I could have been there.

MADAME LUANA  
It was quite impressive. Me Dragons were even a wee frightened.

Madame Luana stands in the doorway. She is in her black dress and black open robe. Only now, the hem of the dress also has a blue flame to match the bottom hem of the robe.

ATLAS  
Luana, would ya mind?

MADAME LUANA  
Sure, Atlas. Don't mind me Lachlan. I'm just gonna give ya a quick exam to make sure everythin's where it's supposed to be.

LACHLAN  
How did ya find us?

ATLAS  
When ya didn't return with the food, I knew somethin' was amiss. Luckily, I put a locator spell on ya. It led us to ya just in the nick of time.

LACHLAN  
So, we actually did it?!

ATLAS  
Aye, we actually did.

King Kyros and Abigail run into the room. She wears a pink nightgown, with fuzzy slippers that match, her hair pulled back in a ponytail, and it's tied with a pink ribbon.

King Kyros wear a long, golden, silk, night shirt, and gold sandals. His amulet is made of intertwined gold and platinum. The stone is a very light natural blue diamond.

His crown matches his amulet. In addition to the blue diamonds, his crown contains regular diamonds, and blue sapphires.

Abigail covers Lachlan's face with kisses.

ABIGAIL  
Lachlan, me darlin' boy!  
(still kissing)  
Ye're awake! Don't ya ever do that  
to me again! I was worried sick  
about ya.

LACHLAN  
Ehh. Mum, gross!

King Kyros is also by Lachlan's bedside. He touches Lachlan's hand.

KING KYROS  
We thought we lost ya there for a  
second, boy. Ya gave us quite a  
fright.

Lachlan looks at his mother and then King Kyros.

LACHLAN  
What on earth is me mum doin' here?

ABIGAIL  
Yer father sent someone for me the  
second ya returned.

LACHLAN  
Wait... So ya knew about "The  
Garden?"

ABIGAIL  
Aye. Only from yer pa's stories  
though. Why do ya think I hated ya  
goin' up to that castle?

MADAME LUANA  
Sorry to interrupt. Lachlan will be  
just fine after a few days of rest.  
He has a few bumps and bruises, but  
that's it.  
(to Lachlan)  
Ye're a very lucky young man.

KING KYROS  
Thank the heavens.

ABIGAIL  
Thank God.

ANYA  
Don't worry Lachlan. I'll never  
leave yer side again. I want to  
hear everythin' I missed. Start  
from when we got separated, ya  
knob.

Anya and Lachlan start to laugh.

ABIGAIL  
Maybe in a little bit Anya. For now  
Lachlan needs to get some rest.

MADAME LUANA  
Here Lachlan, drink this. It's  
chamomile and lavender. It should  
relax ya, and put ya back to sleep.

LACHLAN  
Wait, I need to know somethin'.  
Makani said ya forced him and his  
best friends to watch as his father  
was beheaded. Is that true? Atlas  
didn't tell me this part of the  
story.

ATLAS  
Yer majesty, he had asked why  
Makani had mentioned he was one of  
the last few Shapeshifters. In  
order to keep him focused on the  
mission, I only told him what  
happened at the castle door and how  
ya showed mercy to Makani and his  
friends. Not what happened after.

KING KYROS  
Ya should hear the full story  
Lachlan.  
(beat)  
After we captured Makani, we called  
upon Madame Luana.

MADAME LUANA  
King Akuji was so incredibly  
powerful. He enchanted the door in  
ways only few had seen. Luckily, I  
had. They needed me to break the  
spell.

Flashback Montage = King Kyros Remembers

EXT. JABARI CASTLE - DAY

Madame Luana is at the door. She CHANTS to herself in order  
to break the spell.

INT. JABARI CASTLE - HALLWAY - DAY

Atlas, Madame Luana, Ludlow, Lynch, Devlin, Elwin and other GUARDS(20-60) storm the castle. Black silk drapes with golden embroidery cover every window. Fire burns above that manages to light the castle, but never burns it down.

INT. JABARI CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

King Akuji sits on his golden throne inlaid with black onyx that matches his crown. He wears a black silk robe with golden embroidery. On top of his robe he wears a long golden vest with black embroidery.

He gets up the second the others enter and is about to shapeshift. Madame Luana hits him with an anti-shape-shifting spell. He is surrounded and realizes no matter how powerful he is, he will not win.

King Akuji drops his gold and onyx inlaid sword, takes off his gold and onyx amulet to show he surrenders. He drops to his knees. Elwin and Atlas begin to drag King Akuji out.

INT. JABARI CASTLE - HALLWAY - DAY

They pass sickly, thin, enslaved servants that are clothed in rags. The servants are chained to iron balls. Some guards begin to free them.

CHAILYA SOLDIER  
Check the dungeon for any  
survivors!

Soldiers run down the hallway to the dungeon entrance, and enter.

EXT. CITY OF JABARI - DAY

Atlas and Elwin emerge with King Akuji. He looks at King Kyros with disgust!

KING KYROS  
Take him to the block!

King Akuji struggles with all his might.

EXT. JABARI STREETS - DAY

As King Kyros's guards parade King Akuji down the street, CHEERS are heard from those still alive within the castle gates.

EXT. JABARI - THE BLOCK - DAY

TWO YOUNG GUARDS(21,25) struggle to bring Akuji up to the block where King Kyros waits. Once he gets up to the block, he spots Makani.

KING AKUJI  
(growls; screams)  
Ye're a coward, Makani! A coward!

King Kyros punches King Akuji in the face and CHEERS RING OUT again. He then kneels down to King Akuji's ear.

KING KYROS  
(whispers)  
Mind yer tongue, or I'll make sure to make this the most painful death anyone has ever experienced. And just so ya know, yer son was abandoned by yer troops and was still standin' in front of yer door waitin' to die for ya. So, if anyone's the coward, it's ya.

King Kyros stands once more.

KING KYROS  
Never again will we let such horror occur in our realm. It's our responsibility to never let this type of terror repeat itself.

With that, right in front of Makani and his friends, Kyros lifts his sword and brings it down on Akuji's neck.

KING KYROS  
Never again!

King Kyros brings the sword down once more. The crowd's CHEERS almost deafen King Kyros. RINGING EARS.

KING KYROS  
Release the boys.

The crowd BOOS as the soldiers do as they are told. The boys then flee. The soldiers pass out food, water, and gold. As they flee, they can hear King Kyros speak.

KING KYROS  
We don't punish the child for the sins of the father. I knew Makani as a boy. If he has done anythin' to harm ya, it was because he was forced to by this man.

King Kyros lifts up King Akuji's head.

KING KYROS  
Makani was not only his son but, since the day his mum died, he was his captive.

(MORE)

## KING KYROS (CONT'D)

When I lived in the human realm me wife told me stories about how captives sometimes feel sympathy, and even love towards their captors.

The crowd GASPS.

## KING KYROS

I know it's hard to comprehend, but they bond to stay alive. Do ya remember Bayard the Centaur, Atlas's courageous brother? He was captured by the banshees. By the next frost he was doin' their evil biddn'. I believe he was sufferin' from the same sort of circumstance as Makani. He would do anythin' to please 'em so that they wouldn't kill him or telepathically control him. Even though he was bein' beaten, harassed, and abused, I do believe that, in some way, Makani loved his father. It's complicated when it comes to fathers and sons. Even if yer father was once the Feared King. Think of yer fathers, yer mums, and how all ya ever wanted was to please 'em. Think of how helpless ya would have been without 'em. Now imagine if yer father was King Akuji. Deep down, ask yerself -- would ya hqve done anythin' different?

King Kyros throws King Akuji's head down on the ground.

## KING KYROS

He was just a young, scared boy tryin' to survive.

EXT. JABARI STREETS - DAY

As Makani continues to flee through the streets, he and his friends shapeshift into wolves. He can no longer hear King Kyros's voice. All he can hear is his father.

## KING AKUJI

(gravelly; screams)  
Ye're a coward, Makani! Ye're a coward!

EXT. THE BLOCK - DAY

MAKANI'S P.O.V. - KING KYROS

As he beheads King Akuji. Makani closes his eyes as King Kyros brings down the sword. Makani opens them and now he is closer to his father and King Kyros. He is being held back.

King Kyros lifts his sword a second time. As the sword comes down on King Akuji's neck, the blood on the steel glimmers in the sunlight. Makani closes his eyes as the crowd CHEERS.

(FLASHBACK ENDS)

(FLASHBACK SEQUENCE ENDS)

INT. LACHLAN'S BEDROOM - DAY (BACK TO PRESENT)

Lachlan opens his eyes and stares at his very anxious father.

LACHLAN  
So that's why Makani hated us so much? But his father was horrible to him.

King Kyros turns his back on Lachlan.

KING KYROS  
I know that son. At the time, I thought that lettin' the boy see that he no longer had to fear the monster his father had become was a good thin'. Now I understand that things are much more complicated then they seemed back then. I should've asked him if he wanted to be there. Instead I assumed he did. I created a monster while killin' another. I'm so sorry. I apologize to all of ya.

LACHLAN  
I think I need to rest. But Father...?

King Kyros looks at Lachlan.

LACHLAN  
Makani was a monster long before ya came into the picture. His father made sure of that.

MADAME LUANA  
Here Lachlan, drink this.  
(beat)  
Don't make me force ya.

Madame Luana hands Lachlan a small bottle and Lachlan drinks it. She winks at Atlas, who smiles back.

KING KYROS  
Thank ya for comin' to get me son. I know it probably doesn't mean much now, but I love ya and am so proud of the man ya have become.  
(beat)  
Oh, and I got ya somethin'.

(MORE)



KING KYROS (CONT'D)

Yer mum told me yer a writer. I couldn't find yer notebook, so I got ya one that matches mine.

LACHLAN

(while yawning)

Yer a writer?

KING KYROS

Aye, but we can talk about that later. Get some rest, son.

Lachlan nods. King Kyros gives him a gold journal inlaid with diamonds. Lachlan starts to drift off. He holds the journal tightly to his chest.

ABIGAIL

(whispers)

He is fallin' asleep.

KING KYROS

(whispering)

In that case, Abigail may I show ya the rose garden? I'd love for us to catch up.

ABIGAIL

I'd be delighted.

Lachlan watches as his mother's face lights up. His eyes grow extremely heavy to the point that he can't keep them open at all. Lachlan can still hear what the others discuss.

KING KYROS

(whispering)

Atlas, me dear friend. Would ya mind keepin' watch on Lachlan?

ATLAS

(whispering)

I wouldn't be anywhere else.

Lachlan grabs Anya's hand, kisses it, and falls asleep with a smile on his face.

EXT. RENNY GLEN - MIDNIGHT

It's a dark, cloudy, night. A thick fog rolls in. The bodies of the fallen enemies have been left for the GRAVE DIGGER(50) to bury.

He is a warlock with a silver and quartz amulet. He is not in his robes. Instead he wears a pair of old breeches and a ratty white undershirt.

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)

So, the young prince not only saved his father, but he reunited his parents as well.

(MORE)

## YOUNG MAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

They emerged victorious with the help of the villagers from Chailya Castle and those who fled Arella Castle and hid in the Woods of Avalon. It seems like our journey is over and it's a happy endin' for young Lachlan. But that's the problem with makin' inferences. Ya can never be sure yer right, can ya?

The grave digger finishes Miakoda's grave. He moves over to Makani's body. He starts to dig Makani's grave.

Halfway through he gets tired and sits next to Makani's dead body.

He goes through Makani's pockets. As he does so, his attention is drawn to Makani's amulet. The reflection of the amulet is in his eyes. He is drawn to it. He takes the amulet into his hand and gazes intensely at it.

He feels a hot rush overcome him. Pain and fire rages in his hands, as it quickly begins to spread up his arms to the rest of his body.

Completely engulfed with the amulet's power the gravedigger rises up, and begins to float. The gravedigger then drops to his knees while being hunched over.

Slowly he raises his head. He stares deeply, and maliciously into the night. He has a half-cocked, devious smile come across his face.

The grave digger puts the amulet on.

## GRAVEDIGGER

(gravelly)

Ah. It's good to be back!

The gravedigger's face shape-shifts into Makani's, and then back to the gravedigger's. He stands up and steps over Makani's body. He then disappears into the fog.

FADE OUT.

THE END