

RY

DAMON

Written by

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OPEN MEADOW - DAY

A YOUNG SHEPHERD guides their flock through the meadow. The day is calm and peaceful. The Young Shepherd looks out over the meadow covered in sunlight as they smile.

Finding a calm brook, the Young Shepherd bends down to take a drink with their flock. After they drink, upon looking back into the sky, the Young Shepherd notices the sky is quickly filling with darkness like spilled ink onto a piece of paper.

The flock of sheep instantly become aware of the terror that is infesting the sky and begin to scatter. The shepherd realizes that they have lost control of the sheep and inevitable darkness is looming.

The Young Shepherd SCREAMS before running as fast as they can away from the darkness toward the outline of a castle far in the distance.

EXT./ EST. LOW MOON CASTLE

A large broken, and overgrown castle stretches across a massive open land. Although the castle appears disheveled, the people that farm and work the castle lands do not. The people all appear prosperous and happy as the camera passes over them, high up the castle and into a tower window.

INT. TOWER

REX DAMON, A man of great height and strength with long black hair stands in the window, looking out on his lands. A much smaller man BAGS, sits at a table behind Damon.

The table is filled with stacks of paper and a candle. Bags carefully writes with a quill by the candlelight.

As Bags finishes the final signature on a document, he takes the document and puts it on a large pile. Bags examines another document.

BAGS

Miller's Plenty needs gold.

Bags looks to Damon, but Damon continues to stare out onto the land. After a moment, Bags clears his throat and tries again louder.

BAGS (CONT'D)

Miller's Plenty is requesting more gold, my Rex.

Damon holds out his left-hand halting Bags from speaking more as he continues to stare out.

DAMON

I heard you the first time. Stop calling me Rex.

BAGS

I must now.

DAMON

Why, because I am the Rex?

BAGS

Well, yes. I called your father Rex. You called your father Rex.

DAMON

And I called him Rex because he was the father and the Rex I was given. You are the brother I chose, Bags. As Rex I command you to never call me Rex.

BAGS

Damon, Miller's Plenty is asking for more gold.

DAMON

So, give it to them.

BAGS

But...

DAMON

You would mutter the word, BUT, to your Rex?

Damon continues to stare out the window. Bags becomes uneasy.

BAGS

My apologies, brother, I merely thought that the issue needed further consideration.

DAMON

And what is your consideration?

BAGS

Well, considering the amount of gold the chest is reporting, we may want to consider reevaluating the amounts we're giving out.

DAMON  
To the miller's?

BAGS  
Simply? Yes.

DAMON  
Because you think they're not using  
our gold to mill our wheat?

BAGS  
Not all of it.

DAMON  
You think they are greedy?

BAGS  
No, no.

DAMON  
But you think the people that help  
feed my realm are swindlers?

BAGS  
Not swindlers, just, I believe it  
would benefit both parties to  
reconsider what is wanted and what  
is needed.

Damon continues to stare out the window and ponders for a  
beat.

DAMON  
Then give them more than they have  
asked for.

BAGS  
My Rex... I mean, Damon, are you  
positive? We're bleeding already.

DAMON  
Which is why it must be done, want  
and need. I want them to have what  
they need, and you need to make  
sure they are using what they want.  
So, let's make sure. In a month, if  
they ask for the new amount instead  
of the standard, cut them off  
completely.

BAGS  
All that from staring out a window  
and not at the documents?

Damon does not respond and continues to stare out the window. Bags takes up another document and examines it.

BAGS (CONT'D)

The agreement with Summer's Breeze requires your signature.

Again, Damon does not respond.

BAGS (CONT'D)

Some of this work does require your hand, brother. You can't stare out the window all daydreaming of the hunt.

Damon stares deep out of his window far across the land and sees the young shepherd running toward the castle. A cloud of pure black follows the boy and covers the sky above him. Damon leaves the window.

DAMON

You should check the weather, brother. Not a dream.

Damon bites deep into his thumb, drawing blood. As he walks past the desk and Bags, Damon throws his thumb in the direction of the documents, splashing them with blood.

EXT. CASTLE DOOR

Damon heaves the giant stone doors of the castle open by himself. As soon as he is through the doors, he takes off running toward the young Shepherd.

Lords and ladies, including Bags, of the court join around the now open entrance watching what is happening with uncertainty.

The Young Shepherd is completely exhausted and collapses. As the Young Shepherd collapses, Damon is there to catch him before the Young Shepherd hits the ground. The Young Shepherd gasps for air in Damon's arms.

YOUNG SHEPHERD

My...Rex.

DAMON

Rest, young one.

YOUNG SHEPHERD

I, I tried.

The Young Shepherd fully collapses in Damon's arms. Damon stares off into the approaching darkness with anger.

CASTLE LOWER HALLS

Damon strides through a large long hall. As he moves, he passes the skulls and skins of mighty beasts that dwarf Damon's large size. Damon finally passes an intricately carved doorway and halts.

Damon turns his head. The room is filled with dark cloaked wise men and priests sitting in a circle around a throne. A single elderly man in a white robe, FARLY, stands.

FARLY

My Rex...

Damon stares forward and continues walking. Farley huffs with irritation and follows Damon out of the room. All of the dark clocked men follow Farley out of the room.

Farley catches up to Damon as Damon continues to stride past the remnants of monsters.

FARLY (CONT'D)

My Rex, we must discuss the circumstances.

DAMON

Then discuss. You are the one not discussing, not I.

FARLY

Of course, my Rex. But tradition demands we discuss such things inside the Threat Chamber.

DAMON

And what does tradition have to say about the sky turning black and wanting to waste time with traditions? Tell me what it is and how to stop it.

FARLY

Very wise, my Rex. The scrolls indicate the sky is caused by the opening of a portal from the darkest depths.

DAMON

So, a demon?

FARLY  
Yes, my Rex, or worse.

DAMON  
Worse than a demon? I didn't think  
there were such things.

One of the cloaked wise men, HOBBS, laughs and growls.

HOBBS  
Oh, hog shit! I taught you about  
the worst of the nether regions  
when you were thirteen. Not my  
fault you just wanted to kill  
things and have wet dreams...

The entire convoy halts. Everyone stares at Hobbs except for  
Damon.

HOBBS (CONT'D)  
Oh, right. Rex, my Rex.

DAMON  
If Hobbs said he taught me, then he  
taught me. So, how do I kill these  
things?

Damon begins walking again. The convoy also follows.

FARLY  
Weapons of light and ancient  
craftsmanship forged by holy men...

DAMON  
Sharp things? I have plenty.

FARLY  
...Adored with oils of the faith  
and belief in its mercy and  
protection, my Rex.

DAMON  
Fine, you can put your smelly stuff  
on my sharp things if you think it  
may help.

Damon finally comes to a large, dark tunnel entrance and  
halts.

DAMON (CONT'D)  
Now, leave me to my other  
traditions.

FARLY  
Of course, my Rex.

Farley and the long trail of cloaked men including Hobbs, move back down the long hallway. When they are out of ear shot, Damon WHISPERS.

DAMON  
I do long for the days when these old men barely looked at me.

A woman, MILLY, dips her head out of the shadow of the tunnel.

MILLY  
That was not long enough ago for you to long for it, my love.

Damon smiles deeply and leans into kiss Milly.

DAMON  
It feels like decades. Hows the shepherd?

MILLY  
Nearly killed themselves running here like that. The child will live. How terrifying that must have been. It was terrifying seeing it while the entire court was together.

DAMON  
Brave enough to be Rex. Shall we make sure they have some competition?

Damon picks Milly up and holds her close.

MILLY  
Damon, are you mad? A man and woman together in the cleansing pool? And doing very wonderful but naughty things? The gods will curse us to darkness forever.

DAMON  
I'd never allow them to touch you. Not all of the curses, but Such a curse is an old lie told so that only the Rex may use the pool for such things. My father would often tell me how I was conceived in this very pool.



MILLY

Well, mustn't go against tradition.

Milly disrobes and walks into the darkness of the tunnel.  
Damon smiles and follows.

CLEANSING POOL

A circular room made of dark stone surrounds a pool of glowing blue water. The ancient saber of the Rex hangs on a slab of stone behind the pool. Next to the saber hangs the Hatchet of the Hunt.

Damon and Milly hold each other in the pool.

DAMON

Well, I'm cleansed.

MILLY

Twice cleansed, for me.

Damon and Milly laugh and kiss. There is a moment of silence as they sit with each other in the ancient waters.

MILLY (CONT'D)

Are you nervous about seeing Rex Titus?

DAMON

Always, even when he was alive. But, now that it's mine... It's more nerves about keeping the kingdom than what my father's ghost holds. My first true hunt as Rex and even the old men are nervous.

MILLY

They're always nervous.

DAMON

True. But the darkness gives fire to their worries and mine.

Milly strokes Damon's face.

MILLY

Then go kill the darkness and put all our minds at ease.

DAMON

As you wish, my love. For you, my love.

MILLY

And for you. For the nervous old men and the brave shepherd.

DAMON

Brave like the shepherd. I must. And now, you must leave before you actually are cursed for all time.

MILLY

Oh, that curse is real? It's hard to trek naked through all of this bullshit.

DAMON

Yes, my father was quite clear about that. To look upon the spirit of a Rex is damnation.

MILLY

Oh, but you'll be just fine looking at a dozen dead Rex in a moment?

DAMON

I'm a Rex, it's one of the few comforts the role brings. But I didn't dare before now. My father was an exaggerator but certainly not a liar and not superstitious.

MILLY

Well then, I leave you to your ghosts. I will prepare BO for you.

DAMON

Thank you, my love. Please do not feed him. I want him hungry for the hunt.

MILLY

As you wish, my love... My Rex.

Milly EXITS the Cleansing Pool. Damon smiles as he sits silently in the Cleansing Pool staring into the glowing water.

Damon dunks his head in the water once more and raises it out sharply. Damon climbs out of the Cleansing pool. Damon stands before the Saber and Hatchet on the stone slab.

Damon takes the weapons. As soon as the weapons leave the slab, the glowing waters of the Cleansing Pool becomes a solid platform.

Damon walks onto the platform. Damon kneels in the middle of the platform and sticks his blade into the platform while he holds the saber's handle with both hands.

Suddenly, the platform is surrounded by the ghosts of dead rex. Rex Titus, Damon's father, steps out of the circle toward Damon. Damon smiles at his father's ghost. Rex Titus holds a finger to his lips, signaling to stay quiet.

Damon nods. All of the dead rex put their hands out. The dead rex's hands begin to glow, and he glow leaves their hands and showers over Damon.

EXT. CASTLE ENTRANCE

Damon walks throw the large doors of the castle with his Saber on his back and hatchet at his side. The castle's court and wise men all gather on the steps. Damon walks through them and down the steps.

Milly stands next to BO, a Liger taller than Bags. Bags also stands next to his horse, PALE RIDER.

Damon approaches Milly and embraces her. Milly walks back toward the castle. Damon mounts BO. Bags mounts Pale Rider.

DAMON

Are you sure you're ready for this, brother?

BAGS

Are you?

DAMON

Yes.

BAGS

Then so am I.

DAMON

Well, then, let's be off.

HOBBS

Hold on a damn minute! Petulant children.

Hobbs rides his donkey, Guinevere, up to Damon.

HOBBS (CONT'D)

All right, now we can go.

DAMON

Where do you think you're going,  
old man?

HOBBS

To learn more about this darkness,  
keep you shits in line.

DAMON

I don't even understand the dangers  
that are out there causing this.

It's not safe for you, Hobbs.

HOBBS

Then I guess you'd better keep me  
safe. Not another word about it,  
Damon. Off we go.

Hobbs sips from a flask and rides his donkey slowly forward.  
Damon and Bags share a smile and an accepting shrug. Damon  
and Bags ride to meet Hobbs.

OPEN LAND

Damon, Bags, and Hobbs ride across the dark, moonless land.  
Eventually they come to the meadow where the Young Shepherd  
ran from. The entire flock is slaughtered and laid across the  
ground. Damon dismounts and looks at the slaughtered sheep.

HOBBS

An easy first meal for our  
mysterious dark friend.

DAMON

No feast. Nothing is missing.

BAGS

They've just been slaughtered?

DAMON

They've just been slaughtered.

Damon mounts Bo and the group continues on.

MOUNTAIN PASS

Damon, Bags, and Hobbs continue to ride over rough terrain  
into almost endless darkness.

## FOREST

Damon, Bags, and Hobbs ride with torches through a thick forest. Attached to each creature are glowing stones giving extra light.

Hobbs takes out his flask and brings it to his lips. A crowd of thundering shrieks cuts through the silence and frightens Hobbs, forcing Hobbs to lock his flask and prepares himself.

Damon takes the torch from Hobbs and the torch from Bags. Along with his own torch, Damon throws all three torches into the darkness, one by one, in a line to expose what is coming toward them.

Suddenly a swarm of large white steeds with flaming eyes and the legs of spiders, come rushing through the trees and are briefly exposed by the torch light.

HOBBS

Breachers!

BAGS

What are they?

HOBBS

Creatures of the depths. Usually the first to escape into the world when a portal has opened. Just one could destroy the land.

DAMON

How do we kill them?

HOBBS

Normal killing ways.

DAMON

Good. Not one survives.

Damon rides BO faster into the darkness ahead of Bags and Hobs. Damon jumps from Bo as Bo leaps and sinks his fangs deep into a Breacher.

Damon slices his sword as he flies through the air, decapitating a Breacher. Damon takes the Breacher's corpse by its sharp legs and hurls it into a group of other Breachers.

Bags draws his bow and fires glowing arrows into the eyes of advancing Breachers. Hobbs takes out a metal ball the size of his hand and throws it at a group of advancing Breachers.

The ball explodes before the creatures and white-hot light scorches the Breachers until they are covered in flames and run until they fall and burn.

#### WALL OF BREACHER CORPSES

Bags and Hobs sit by a fire beside piles of Breacher corpses forming a crude wall next to them. Damon tosses another Breacher corpse onto the pile.

DAMON

How many is that? I've lost count.

Hobbs takes a sip from his flask.

HOBBS

I was supposed to be counting?

BAGS

Two dozen.

HOBBS

Sounds about right for a swarm of Breachers, give or take.

DAMON

How in this world could you know that? You didn't even mention Breachers.

BAGS

Would have been nice to have some warning about those.

HOBBS

Well, I assumed there would be Breachers, but I didn't know. Just like we assumed the darkened sky was caused by a portal, but we didn't know. Now that I've seen Breachers, I know, and I know that a portal has been opened. So, we may come across Breachers on this trip. There's your damn warning.

DAMON

Was that so difficult, Hobbs?

HOBBS

The only thing that will be difficult for me is figuring out how to get my boots out of both of your asses.

Damon and Bags laugh. Hobbs laughs and passes his flask to Damon. Guinevere brays.

HOBBS (CONT'D)

Quiet, Guinevere, you're safe for now. I've run out of boots.

Damon and Bags laugh harder as Bags now takes a drink from the flask.

BAGS

All right, enough for now. Let's rest while we can before more shit Hobbs forgets to tell us about comes around.

DAMON

Fine by me.

HOBBS

And fine by me!

LATER

Bags is woken by Damon. Bags is startled and rubs his face. Hobbs is already mounted on Guinevere.

DAMON

It's alright, my brother. Time to wake.

BAGS

It's still dark.

HOBBS

The darkness will continue until the portal is closed. So, get your ass up!

Bags rises and mounts Pale Rider. Damon mounts BO. Hobbs drops the torch between the fire and the pile of Breachers as the three ride off. The ground ignites and ignites the wall, creating an instant and large wall of fire behind them.

BONFIRE

Hobbs Damon and Bags feast on a large roast. Damon holds a leg in his hand with the hoof poking through the bottom of his fist. Damon continues to hold the leg like a club before finally taking a bite.

HOBBS

Been a while since I've had a fresh kill. I forgot what the hunt taste like.

BAGS

And?

HOBBS

Damn good.

DAMON

It was difficult to find anything living in this area. We must be getting close.

BAGS

I'd say we're a days ride from the Great Mountain, but days don't seem to be a thing anymore.

HOBBS

Close enough for now. I'll enjoy my food and drink and sleep tonight. Death can wait for me.

Damon stares into the fire. Small glowing orbs, like bubbles begin to flow out of the fire. Damon tosses the rest of the uneaten leg behind him. Bo instantly catches the leg and devours it.

DAMON

I suggest you finish your meal elsewhere. Death may wait for you, but

(MORE)

DAMON (cont'd) my father will not.

HOBBS

Even in death he bothers me. Tell him, thanks a lot. But say it real sarcastic like that.

Hobbs stands with a hunk of meat in one hand and his flask in the other. Hobbs EXITS.

BAGS

What, what's happening right now?

DAMON

Apparently, my father needs to speak with me. I'm as surprised as you are.



BAGS

Rex Titus? Rex Titus is coming?

DAMON

Yes, and it can't be good for either of us, but especially you. Get out of here before you're cursed forever.

BAGS

Oh, no, damnit! Ok, everyone in this party needs to get better at warnings. Just let a guy know before he's going to be devoured by spider horses or cursed forever by a ghost. Starting now.

Bags stumbles as he stands and quickly leaves the bonfire. Damon continues to sit. Damon picks up a handful of dirt and throws it into the flames.

The flames grow and whip to the seat opposite Damon and the ghost of Titus Rex appears.

DAMON

Rex Titus.

REX TITUS

Rex Damon.

DAMON

Hello, father. I didn't think I'd ever see you outside of the Cleansing Pool. And I certainly didn't think we'd ever speak again.

REX TITUS

A Rex should never assume...

DAMON

When you assume, you make you and me look like a damn idiot. I remember.

REX TITUS

Then use what you've kept, or what's the point?

DAMON

Just come here to lecture me and force your wisdom? Is that a gift for dead Rex and a curse for living ones?

REX TITUS

Of course. Breaking your boulders  
is forever.

Both Damon and his father laugh.

REX TITUS (CONT'D)

How are you finding the power so  
far?

DAMON

Being Rex is difficult to explain.  
Beyond words, as you used to tell  
me. Just looking into the fire now,  
I could sense you. I could sense  
you would be here, and dirt would  
give you form.

REX TITUS

Beyond words, indeed. The  
circumstances are more unusual than  
ever. I am only here because the  
demon stalks the realm.

Rex Titus looks up and around at the darkness.

DAMON

Come to talk about the demon?  
Jealous that I am the one to hunt  
it?

REX TITUS

No, my son, no Rex is jealous of  
this hunt. The darkness has covered  
our lands few times and never this  
completely. Our council has  
concluded that this darkness is  
caused by the coming of a demon  
lord, a general of the deepest  
army. It is an entity not meant to  
be faced by mortal men. We fear  
that the blessing of the Rex along  
with the ancient strength will not  
be enough to battle this foe.

DAMON

It has no weakness? No flaw in its  
design?

REX TITUS

You weaken it by knowing it. The demons name is KORIN, a beast of great size, strength, and speed with the body of a stallion, the torso of an ox, and the head of a six horned ram. But you cannot hunt this beast. More than likely, he is hunting you.

WOOD'S EDGE

Bags strolls far from the fire to the edge of the woods. Bags holds a glowing stone out while he uses his other hand to urinate.

Bags stares into the darkness as he urinates. A CRACKING of wood startles Bags. Bags holds his glowing stone further out into the darkness. After a moment, the enormous, six horned head of Korin enters into the light.

Bags falls backwards and crawls backwards in terror as Korin shows is true, horrible size to Bags. Instinctively, Bags turns and flees back toward the Bonfire.

Bags sees Damon talking with Rex Titus. Bags remembers the curse and immediately turns from Damon and Rex Titus.

As soon as Bags turns back toward the edge of the wood, Korin has disappeared without a trace. Bags realizes what he has done, collapses, and weeps.

BONFIRE

DAMON

What else?

REX TITUS

There is not much else, I'm afraid. Korin hunts by darkness. The land is now like a warm bath to him. He will first scorch the land of the living before the armies of the damned follow and eat this entire world whole.

DAMON

Shit.

REX TITUS

Yes, it will all very quickly turn entirely to shit.

(MORE)

REX TITUS (CONT'D)

But there is still time. There is still you, my son, you are the Rex of the land, Damon. You must close the portal at all costs. You must slay this demon at all costs.

DAMON

What if, what if I cannot?

REX TITUS

At all costs, my son.

DAMON

I'd gladly give my life to end this.

REX TITUS

There are more expensive things than death, Rex Damon.

Rex Titus vanishes back into the flames of the fire. Damon continues to stare into the fire and think.

LATER

As only embers burn in the fire pit, Damon lies on his side and continues to think instead of sleep. Bags lies on his side away from the others, quietly weeping. Hobbs drunkenly SNORES loudly, completely unconscious.

EXT. GREAT MOUNTAIN ENTRANCE

Mounted, Damon, Bags, and Hobs, approach the entrance tunnel to the Great Mountain. The land around the tunnel is littered with spurts of fire. Damon dismounts and stares deep into the mountains entrance. Bags draws his bow and slightly whimpers as he prepares himself to follow Damon.

Hobbs stays mounted and sips his flask.

HOBBS

Well, you boys have fun in there. Let me know in detail how it turns out. Take notes!

DAMON

Followed us all this way to sit on your ass and drink?

HOBBS

If I enter that tunnel, I will die.  
If I sit here and drink, I have  
half a chance of you walking out of  
that cave while I continue to drink  
and live. Better odds.

DAMON

Hobbs, you are a wise, wise man. I  
apologize for never giving proper  
appreciation.

HOBBS

Hey, you've only been Rex for like  
three months. Ignorance is  
expected, but acknowledgement is  
always appreciated.

Hobbs raises his flask to Damon. Damon smiles and continues  
walking toward the tunnel.

HOBBS (CONT'D)

Wait, wait, wait. I'm not  
completely useless. I did watch you  
grow, all right? I do have a say in  
your demise, if even a whisper. My  
duties are beyond writing down  
words and drinking until I fall off  
my beautiful ass. Come here, my  
boy!

Damon smirks and walks back to Hobbs. Hobbs takes five iron  
balls out of his pouch. Hobbs hands each iron ball to Damon.

HOBBS (CONT'D)

Brimstone, full moon, and dragon  
tongue. Enough to light the darkest  
depths and burn those birthed by  
fire.

Damon takes the iron balls and his hand and swirls them  
around.

DAMON

How do I use these orbs?

HOBBS

Toss them at what you want to see  
and kill. I know you enjoy your  
sharp things, but its going to  
become awfully dark awfully fast in  
there and the light will cut deeper  
than your saber.

(MORE)

HOBBS (CONT'D)

Did your father tell you anything specific when you spoke to him?

DAMON

Yes. Well, yes and no.

HOBBS

Whatever he told you, you needed to hear. Believe me, the dead have time to think about what they want to say. Especially when they know the living have little time to act.

DAMON

Mostly scolding, if you ask me.

HOBBS

Then you needed to be scolded. The Rex's wraith was not your father, it was the knowledge of the past to assist you in conquering the future. Go kill this thing already so that all of us have a future.

Damon, nods, smirks, and walks toward the tunnel entrance.

Bags follows Damon toward the entrance of the tunnel. Damon enters the dark tunnel. Bags pauses short of the tunnel's threshold. Damon notices the sound of footsteps have stopped behind him, turns his head to make sure, and finally sees Bags in his current state.

DAMON

What's the matter, brother, besides the obvious?

BAGS

I... I'm screwed, I'm, I'm completely screwed, Damon.

DAMON

We're both screwed. There's strength in that.

BAGS

No, no, I, me, me, I'm screwed. I saw the presence of Rex Titus by the fire.

DAMON

You saw my father as we spoke?

Tears stream down Bags's face as he nods deeply. Damon accepts what Bag's has said but denies it.

DAMON (CONT'D)

Words, exaggeration, warnings. Just warnings, Bags. I had sex with Milly in the Cleansing Pool.

Bags snorts and laughs, but the tears quickly come back along with the realization of being damned.

BAGS

No, no this one is for sure. I saw the demon, too.

DAMON

Korin?

Deep inside the dark tunnel, the voice of the demon Korin echoes.

KORIN

Da-m-on... DAMON!

BAGS

His image forced me backward in terror until I had no sanctity but to run from him. In my fleeing, I saw your father and realized that death by the demon's hand was far more merciful than being damned and have to call the demon brother, Damon. I screwed up. I'm screwed, brother.

DAMON

Again, we're both damned.

Damon walks slowly out of Bags's sight into the darkness. Bags wipes his face, prepares an arrow in his bow and follows Damon.

INT. GREAT MOUNTAIN

Damon enters the last of the tunnel before a crevice. Damon leaves the last light of the tunnel and moves along the wall and crevasse's ledge into complete darkness.

Bags follows Damon until both are amerced in darkness to the point that only the sound of their HEAVY BREATHING can be heard.

KORIN

Da-mon,

Damon and Bags continue to scuttle along the edge in complete darkness.

KORIN (CONT'D)

Da-mon!

Damon continues to move along the edge of the crevice. Bags follows. Suddenly, flames fill the crevice in front of Damon. High up above the crevice, resting on a cliff, is Korin. Korin holds a large dark bow filled with many arrows.

KORIN (CONT'D)

Da-mon!

Damon and Korin connect eyes. After a beat, the entire interior of the Great Mountain again turns to complete darkness. A single, flaming arrow flies through the darkness and hits the cave wall between Damon and Bags's face. Bags looks relieved. A moment later, Bags's gut is filled with twelve arrows. Damon watches Bags spit up blood and slowly die by the light of the flaming arrow. Damon holds his dead friend and sheds a tear before extinguishing the flame from the arrow between he and Bags.

KORIN (CONT'D)

Da-mon.

Damon continues to shuffle along the edge of the crevice in total darkness. After a moment of Damon's HEAVY BREATHING in the darkness, an arrow flies through the darkness and grazes Damon's shoulder.

Damon feels the piercing arrow but continues along the edge of the crevice. After a moment, another arrow flies through the darkness and grazes Damon's other shoulder.

Damon collapses to the ground in pain. Damon continues to collapse downward until he rolls along the edge and into the crevice.

As soon as Damon finds himself falling into the crevice, Damon bursts silently onto the other side of the crevice while tossing stones along the edge to make the sound of falling far below. Damon hugs the other side of the crevice as he hears ARROWS being fired at his thrown stones.

Damon closes his eyes as he hugs the rock. A tear streams down Damon's face. Damon remembers Hobbs's words as they echo in his mind

HOBBS (O.S.)

Did your father tell you anything specific when you spoke to him?



BONFIRE - PAST

Damon sits opposite the spirit of Rex Titus around the bonfire.

REX TITUS

Then use what you've kept, or what's the point?

INT. GREAT MOUNTAIN - PRESENT

Damon continues to hug the wall. Damon thinks back to when he was a child.

BONFIRE - PAST

A young Damon sits by a living Titus Rex around a small fire in the woods at night. Titus Rex cleans and sharpens his blade. Young Damon cowers for warmth as he YAWNS.

Rex Titus stops his blade preparation. Rex Titus holds a finger to his mouth indicating that young Damon should be quiet.

YOUNG DAMON

It's so early! And cold. Why are we out here when it's so early and cold? The badgers are tiny.

REX DAMON

The badgers are tiny, but their pelts are tough and good for armor. And their meat is... their pelts are tough, and their meat is meat. This is when they hunt, so, this is when we hunt them.

Rex Titus extinguishes the small fire. Young Damon darts his eyes around the woods.

REX TITUS

Searching for the moon light? Your eyes, you're so focused on your eyes. What if you had no eyes? Could a Rex still hunt without eyes?

Rex Titus throws a piece of dark cloth to Young Damon. Rex Titus watches as Young Damon ties the cloth around his eyes. After Young Damon sits patiently with his dark cloth secured around his eyes, Rex Titus ties a piece of cloth around his own eyes.

Rex Titus extinguishes the flame. Young Damon sits blindfolded in the darkness.

REX TITUS (CONT'D)  
What do you hear?

YOUNG DAMON  
Crickets?

Blindfolded, Rex Titus tosses a stone into the distance. Young Damon follows the sound of the stone. A moment later, Rex Titus is next to Damon's right ear.

REX TITUS  
You're still relying on the speed of your eye, my son. Be patient. Sit with your other weapons.

There is a long moment as the crickets chirp.

REX TITUS (CONT'D)  
What do you hear now?

YOUNG DAMON  
The sound of you breathing.

REX TITUS  
Good. What else?

YOUNG DAMON  
I smell the cooked qual we ate on your breath.

REX TITUS  
Really?

Rex Titus disappears and emerges on the other side of Young Damon.

REX TITUS (CONT'D)  
Because I can smell the jam you snuck for dessert.

Damon gasps and quickly feels the hands of his father pressing Young Damons hands into the soil.

REX TITUS (CONT'D)  
What do you feel?

YOUNG DAMON  
Gross dirt.

REX TITUS  
What do you feel?

YOUNG DAMON  
Vibrations, from the West.

REX TITUS  
Are they moving closer or further  
away?

YOUNG DAMON  
Closer.

REX TITUS  
Draw your bow.

Young Damon draws his bow and aims it in front of his covered eyes

REX TITUS (CONT'D)  
Hold out your tongue.

Young Damon sticks out his tongue.

REX TITUS (CONT'D)  
When you feel the breeze strike  
your tongue, release.

Damon continues to hold his bow until a slight breeze hits his tongue. Damon releases. The sound of a BADGER DYING fills the wood. Young Damon smiles and lifts the cloth from his eyes. Young Damon sees his arrow inside of a dead badger by the light of the moon.

REX TITUS (CONT'D)  
Your eyes are strong, but they will  
always be the first to fail you.

INT. GREAT MOUNTAIN - PRESENT

Damon continues to hold onto the cliff wall with his eyes closed. After a beat, he slowly reaches out for a secure place for his hand, finds it, and shifts his body over.

After another long moment being still in the darkness, Damon reaches out his left hand again and finds a crack in the stone to secure himself and pulls himself over. Suddenly, the crevice fills with towering flames, engulfing Damon.

Damon keeps his eyes closed and continues reaching for cracks in the wall.

DAMON  
(Internally) Forget your eyes.  
There is no heat.

Damon continues to scale the cliff. A moment later, the flames fade into darkness. Slowly, Damon climbs the cliff until he is on the same level as Korin. Damon slowly stalks the darkness until he can hear Korin's hoggish breathing.

Again Korin calls out to the darkness.

KORIN

Da-mon!

After the echo, Damon can sense the proximity of Korin. Damon reaches into his belt pouch and slowly withdraws the orbs handed to him by Hobbs. Again, Korin screams into the void

KORIN (CONT'D)

Damon!

DAMON

Here, bastard.

Damon hurls the orbs into Korin's chest. Light explodes and fills the distance between Damon and Korin. Korin shrieks in pain and terror as the flash of hot light scorches him.

The interior of the great mountain begins to flash between completely lit and pure darkness. Korin's left claw reaches for Damon's throat.

Damon hits Korin's hand away from him and secures Korin's left wrist in his right hand. Korin's right hand reaches out and grabs Damon's neck.

Damon reaches for his saber and severs Korin's left arm that Damon still holds in his right hand. Korin screeches louder than before as black blood spurts from his severed wrist and he retreats backward into darkness.

Damon stands drenched in the black ink of Korin's severed arms. The natural light of the great mountain's burning internal core lights the passage again as Damon collapses.

Damon lies as Milly flashes in his mind. Damon opens his eyes. Damon sits up and wipes his eyes with both hands, only now his right hand has completely fused with Korin's severed wrist.

Damon tries to shake the Korin's wrist free from his grip, but realizes the wrist is fused with him. Damon now permanently had what looks like an odd club in his hand. Damon realizes he his cursed and SCREAMS out in terror.

LATER

Damon kneels beside Bags's corpse. Damon sees the many arrows sticking out of Bag's chest and rips them out. Damon strokes Bag's face.

DAMON

Sleep, brother. Thank you.

Damon closes Bag's open eyes. Korin's severed wrist drips blood as it hangs over Bag's chest wounds. The dark demon blood seeps into Bag's wounds.

Seconds later, Bags opens his eyes and jumps up and SCREAMS in horror. Damon crawls backwards in shock of Bag's sudden movement. Bags looks at Damon. There is a long moment of silence shared between them.

BAGS

Damon?

DAMON

Bags? You're, you're alive?

BAGS

I'm not breathing. I felt the arrows, and everything went dark and then I awoke and now I'm not breathing.

Damon examines Korin's arm.

DAMON

Demons blood. It must have raised you.

BAGS

I'm dead? A moving corpse brought back with demon's blood? I told you I was screwed.

Bags laughs and sits defeated.

DAMON

Hey, brother, as I said before, we both are.

Damon shakes his hand showing that Korin's arm is fused with his right hand. Bags looks at Korin's severed arm, perplexed but then grins.

Damon turns his head toward the tunnel with a smirk. Suddenly, the light of morning fills the tunnel and a beam lands on Damon's face.

DAMON (CONT'D)  
But not completely.

Damon rises and EXITS through the tunnel. Bags gathers Korin's arrows previously lodged in his chest and follows Damon.

EXT. GREAT MOUNTAIN ENTRANCE - SUNRISE

Damon Exits the tunnel and looks around. A new sun pokes through the morning clouds. Damon looks ahead and sees Hobbs with his flask in his hand, asleep on Guinevere. Damon laughs.

DAMON  
Old man!

Hobbs awakes and draws his sword in surprised panic. Hobbs sees Damon, cackles, put his sword away and takes a drink from the flask as he looks around the new morning.

HOBBS  
Well, well, looks like you've killed the demon and brought the say back. Good job, boy. Brought a souvenir from your triumphs?

Hobbs points to Korin's wrist.

DAMON  
I only maimed him. He fled back into the darkness. Why, why does the sunshine?

HOBBS  
Because the darkness no longer wants him. The portal is closed. He is trapped here. The demon will still do evil to this land, that has not changed.

DAMON  
But I have.

Bags exits the cave behind Damon. Bag's eyes are pale red, and his skin is pure white. Upon seeing Bags, Hobs lowers his head and shakes it in disappointment.

Bags walks past Damon toward Pale Rider. Pale rider kicks and neighs as Bags moves closer.

Bags pulls a dagger from his belt and stabs Pale Rider deep through the neck after approaching. Pale Rider CRIES OUT in pain and falls to the ground, dead.

DAMON (CONT'D)

Bags! What are you doing?

Damon draws his hatchet with his left hand. Bags continues to stand over Pale Rider.

BAGS

You saw, he never would have let me ride him like this. Did you want me to kill Bo or the ass?

Damon stares at Bags and slowly sheaths his hatchet.

BAGS (CONT'D)

Raise him. Raise him like you raised me.

Damon slowly walks over to Pale Rider and holds Korin's arm of the horse's corpse. Dark blood leaks out of the wrist and onto Pale Rider. A moment later, Pale Rider neighs and rises to his feet, ready to be ridden.

BAGS (CONT'D)

Thank you. I'm not going to walk around everywhere while we hunt Korin.

Bags mounts Pale Rider. Damon turns to Hobbs.

DAMON

Tell the other old men that the young Shepherd is the new Rex. At least until Milly bares a child. I can no longer be the protector of the dominion. I am cursed. Go, tell them.

HOBBS

In time.

Hobbs takes a drink from his flask.

DAMON

That is a command from your Rex!

HOBBS

Last I heard, Damon was no longer the Rex. And he isn't dead, he's cursed, at least partially.

(MORE)

HOBBS (CONT'D)

Never heard of a cursed Rex hunting a wounded Demon with the aid of his dead companion. Think I'll write it down.

BAGS

Sounds like a horror story.

HOBBS

Only if we don't kill this demon. Until then, it's a story of redemption. I think I'd like to witness that.

DAMON

I don't even know where to begin.

BAGS

South East. Korin's heading south East. I, I can sense him.

HOBBS

South East it is!

Hobbs rides Guinevere past Damon and Bags.

HOBBS (CONT'D)

Looks like I'm in charge, now a freed man with no Rex and no curse. Come on, boys, today was made easier for us.

Hobbs sips his flask as he rides Guinevere South East. Bags and Damon look at each other and share a small smile. Bags shrugs and rides forward toward Hobs. Damon watches the two ride. Damon looks at the new day.

Damon looks back in the direction of his lands. Damon WHISTLES loud and short. Bo approaches. Damon mounts Bo and rides forward to meet Hobbs and Bags.

END