

DARRYN THE BOLD AND THE SWORD OF BOLDNESS

Written by

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INT. FANTASY FORGE - NIGHT

Flames burn in the darkness. A female voice speaks.

KALA (V.O.)

The Sword of Boldness was the  
greatest sword ever created.

Molten steel pours into a sword mold.

KALA (V.O.)

Forged thousands of years ago by a  
powerful wizard.

A hooded figure beats and cools the hot metal, then lifts the sword high. This is THE SWORD OF BOLDNESS. A rather plain looking blade, save for the GLOW that surrounds it.

INT. CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Vaulted ceilings. A golden throne. An old KING stands in the center of a mass of knights and royalty. The hooded figure walks through it all, toward the king.

KALA (V.O.)

Anyone could hold it, but The Sword  
would only reveal its ultimate  
power to one with a truly  
courageous heart. A hero brave  
enough to face his worst fear.

The hooded figure bows and presents The Sword from under his cloak. The king raises The Sword high and his subjects cheer, as The Sword GLOWS with power. Our king smiles. This is good.

KALA (V.O.)

Throughout time, kings and heroes  
fought for The Sword, though few  
experienced its full potential.

A MASS OF SWIRLING IMAGES: Time marches on, wars are fought, and the king changes from an old king to all forms of king: Young, Old, Black, White, Asian, Elven. You name it. Each one holds The Sword. Sometimes it glows. Usually it doesn't.

INT. CASTLE - BEDROOM - DAY

On the walls of the bedroom: Swords. Knives. Pointy sticks. Many sharp objects, with the exception of one EMPTY SPACE.

Around the room - Clothes. Armor. Many empty (and full) beer steins. In bed, post-coitus, lie DARRYN (40s) and KALA (20s).

DARRYN is fit, handsome, sparkling teeth, rugged jawline. Perfect in every heroic way. And he knows it.

Next to him - KALA. Physically, she's exactly the kinda girl who'd end up in bed with a guy like Darryn. But not nearly as dumb as a guy like Darryn thinks she is.

DARRYN

But throughout time, The Sword was lost. If it ever fell into the wrong hands, blahblahblah. Boring!

KALA

Boring? It's the greatest sword in legend.

Darryn reaches over, grabs a glass full of beer and slams the whole thing. Grabs another.

DARRYN

You wanna hear a sword story? Did I ever tell you how I killed the Bridge Troll of Cralix?

KALA

Yes. Several times, actually. I'm--

DARRYN

There I was...

FLASHBACK - EXT. FANTASY BRIDGE - DAY

Darryn stands at one end of a long bridge, miles across and a long way down. Two eyes suddenly open beneath the bridge.

The eyes lumber forward from the shadows, giving shape to a MASSIVE BRIDGE TROLL! Hundreds of feet tall with a scarred, knotted face that not even a troll mother could love.

DARRYN (V.O.)

...with the Righteous Knife of Righteousness. I charged at the troll and...

Darryn, shiny, magical knife in hand, runs at the troll, releases a loud war cry! And we shift to...

FLASHBACK - EXT. FOREST - DAY

Trees burn all around. Darryn LEAPS through the fire and races toward a sword stuck in a tree.

DARRYN (V.O.)  
 Or how about the time I used the  
 Talking Sword of Vik to kill the  
 Demon Bears?

He pulls THE TALKING SWORD OF VIK from the tree.

TALKING SWORD OF VIK  
 Finally! You do not know how long  
 I've been stuck in there! Gods,  
 it's hot. Oh, look out behind you.

Darryn turns to see CAR-SIZED BEARS WITH FLAMES FOR EYES  
 surrounding him! He holds the sword, ready for battle.

TALKING SWORD OF VIK (CONT'D)  
 Please don't use me for slashing  
 things! I'm not that kind of - Agh!

Darryn charges! Demon Bear-blood splatters!

BACK TO THE BEDROOM.

Kala, bored. Darryn drinking. A sword from the wall speaks.

TALKING SWORD OF VIK (CONT'D)  
 Cool story, D.

DARRYN  
 Thanks, Vik!

Kala rolls her eyes.

KALA  
 Wow. So amazing. Again. Why don't--

DARRYN  
 That's nothing. Check this out!

Darryn leaps out of the bed, sends Kala rolling to the floor,  
 and we're off to...

FLASHBACK - EXT. SKY - DAY

Darryn swings a magnificent blade as he soars through the air  
 on a Griffin, an eagle/lion/horse creature, right toward...

DARRYN (V.O.)  
 What about when I used the magical  
 Elven Blade of My'llw'ftyz--

Right toward...

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
 --My'lly'ftazy--

Right toward...

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
 ---Myllr'frëzy-- When I slayed the  
 Great Red Dragon of Pondor!

Right toward A MONSTROUS RED DRAGON! Darryn FLIES UPSIDE DOWN over the dragon, drops on its head, and buries the beautiful elven sword deep in the monster's skull. He ROARS in victory!

BACK TO THE BEDROOM

Darryn holds the Elven blade, continues his victory cry!

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
 Yeah!

Kala, slightly dazed, picks herself off the floor. Darryn grabs another drink. He can really throw 'em back.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
 There's a million swords better  
 than the Sword of Boldness, Kala.

Darryn puts the sword on the wall. Kala pauses, surprised.

KALA  
 Wait. You know my name?

DARRYN  
 I know the name of every girl who  
 sees my mightiest sword.

KALA  
 Your what?

DARRYN  
 My "mightiest sword". I'm talking  
 about my p--

KALA  
 Yeah, I got it.

DARRYN  
 I mean, there's you. Princess  
 Hersent. Baronetess Wenthelen...

KALA  
 Yeah, sure. Give me the whole list.

DARRYN

...Uzimeth the Unadventurous -  
which, believe me, was not just a  
clever name. The Duchess Yundra.  
The Viscountess Mazameel. I don't  
even know what a viscountess is...

As Darryn rambles, Kala produces the classic VIAL OF POISON  
from under the sheets, pours the poison in a nearby drink.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

One time, there was Nami, the  
Thonyzian. That was wild.

KALA

A Thonyzian cat lady? You are bold.

DARRYN

But no one compares to Jynny.

KALA

You mean your fiancé?

DARRYN

Don't get me wrong. You were great,  
but Jynny - she's special. With  
her, I can just be regular Darryn,  
and not "The Bold" Darryn, you  
know? And isn't that what we all  
really want? Just to be ourselves?

Darryn reflects on this, almost as if there's more to life  
than just him. Kala pauses, as if she too is pondering her  
own life choices.

KALA

Wow. I mean, yeah, I guess so.

But then...

DARRYN

Plus, she does this thing with her  
mouth where she puts it right--

KALA

Yep. Ok. Drink this.

Kala hands Darryn the poisoned drink; he throws it back  
without thinking.

DARRYN

Don't worry; she's cool with it.

Kala sits back on the bed, watching Darryn intently.

KALA

She's "cool" with it?

DARRYN

I mean, I'm Darryn the Bold. The greatest hero of all time. I can't not bang hot princesses and warrior queens and random girls I meet on the street.

KALA

All that, and you're humble too.

DARRYN

I know, right?

Freeze on Darryn. Power stance!

SUPER: DARRYN THE BOLD. GREATEST HERO OF ALL TIME (AND HUMBLE).

Kala produces a knife from somewhere under the sheets.

KALA

I don't know if I'd say greatest...

DARRYN

What? Who's greater than me? And don't you dare say--

KALA

Garryn the Great was the last person to supposedly find The Sword of Boldness.

DARRYN

Supposedly. It was never confirmed because no one's seen Garryn the Great in years. Which is a little convenient, don't you think?

KALA

I just think that the greatest hero of all time should have the Sword of Boldness. Or at least know where it is. Do you know where it is?

DARRYN

Look, honey, we can talk about who might have found what. Or you can take a look at this.

Darryn grabs another sword from the wall, right next to the empty space. Even Kala has to admit that it's a truly magnificent blade. She temporarily hides the knife.

KALA

The Sword of Awesomeness. The second greatest sword ever.

DARRYN

That's right. The second greatest sw-- what?!

KALA

It's not The Sword of Boldness.

DARRYN

I have killed more monsters, found more swords, and kicked more ass than anyone. Including Garryn. Who cares about the SOB?

KALA

If you don't care about it, why is there a space for it on your wall?

She points to the empty space.

DARRYN

That? That's not for the SOB. That's for another sword that I'm having worked on at the - how do you know so much about swords?

Kala approaches Darryn, knife hidden behind her back.

KALA

I've studied swords my whole life.

DARRYN

That's a weird hobby for a girl.

KALA

Oh, I have lots of weird hobbies, Darryn. Swords. Poison.

Darryn holds his tummy. He's looking a little sick.

DARRYN

I'm not feeling so good.

KALA

Death.

She holds the knife to Darryn's throat, super evil smile now.



DARRYN

I didn't know you were into this type of stuff. Not my fave, personally, but I'll go with it.

Kala pulls the knife back and - BOOM! A young SERVANT bursts through the door. Kala hides the knife.

SERVANT

Darryn the Bold, sir, the kingdom is under attack and the king--

He notices Kala and Darryn in their state of undress.

SERVANT (CONT'D)

The, uh, king requests, uhm...

Darryn smiles at Kala, shrugs, oblivious to her true motives.

DARRYN

Gotta go. Hero stuff.

Following the servant is JYNNY (30s), just your usual princess/damsel-in-distress/nice girl who puts up with way too much of Darryn's shit.

JYNNY

Darryn! The kingdom is under attack! Father needs your help--

But maybe not as nice as she lets on. She sees the situation.

DARRYN

Hi, Jynny.

JYNNY

Darryn! You son of a--

Freeze on Jynny. Angry.

SUPER: JYNNY. DARRYN'S ~~FIANCE~~ - IT'S COMPLICATED.

Kala flashes another evil smile and escapes out a window.

EXT. CLIFFSIDE - BATTLEFIELD - DAY

A strong castle, protected by cliffs on either side. In front, Darryn rides proudly on a mighty warhorse through the ranks of SOLDIERS. The soldiers turn and look at him in awe.

YOUNG SOLDIER

I heard Darryn stopped a whole pack of Wolf Rats single-handed.

DIRTY OLD SOLDIER

I heard he saved a convent of Spice Nuns from their vows of chastity.

FEMALE SOLDIER

I heard he's kind of a dick. Anyone else hear that? Just me?

But she's quickly drowned out...

SOLDIERS

Darryn! Darryn! Darryn!

Darryn continues to ride, as the soldiers cheer.

DARRYN

Oh, no. Please. Stop.

His words say stop, but Darryn, huge smile on his face, motions for the soldiers to keep cheering.

Darryn rides to the front of the line where KING RAWLIN (60s), a strong, proud king, surveys the battlefield.

KING RAWLIN

Darryn the Bold, you're one of the greatest heroes who's ever served this kingdom.

DARRYN

And you're one of the greatest kings who's ever paid me to say that. Plus your daughter is one of the hottest daughters I've ever--

KING RAWLIN

Yes, we all look forward to the wedding. But today, I fear, is our greatest threat yet. Evil Incarnate. The Destroyer of Worlds. The Hammer has come to Azmoor.

The two men stare out across the battlefield where...

THE HAMMER (20s), eight-feet of black, bloody, spiky armor stands, surrounded by his army. A helmet, shaped to look like a human skull with horns (for extra scariness) hides his face. In his hands, he carries a HUGE WARHAMMER.

Darryn is unimpressed.

DARRYN

Really? The Hammer? That's the best he could come up with?

(MORE)

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
 It's not like I'm called "The  
 Sword" or "The Princess Fu--".

KING RAWLIN  
 I don't care what he's called,  
 Darryn. Just save Azmoor.

DARRYN  
 Don't worry, Rawl, there's two  
 things I'm good at: Finding swords,  
 killing bad guys, and kicking ass.

King Rawlin, very confused.

On the other side of the battlefield, The Hammer swings his  
 warhammer down HARD on the ground and his SOLDIERS -all black  
 armor and similar skull-shaped helmets- charge forward.

Darryn cracks his knuckles and smiles.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
 Time to get serious.

Darryn charges, the king's men right behind him!

On the battlefield, an epic battle rages. Darryn slices  
 through The Hammer's soldiers. The Hammer smashes the king's  
 men, until the two finally come face-to-face.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
 So you're The Hammer, huh? I guess  
 creativity's not your strong suit.

Steam emanates from The Hammer's helmet, as his cold eyes  
 stare Darryn down. Then, he slowly removes the helmet,  
 revealing that he is a SHE. THE HAMMER IS A WOMAN.

Not only is she a woman, but she is a massive, bald woman  
 with piercings, spikes, nails all through her face and head.

THE HAMMER  
 Darryn the Bold. We meet at last.

DARRYN  
 You're a girl! A really ugly girl,  
 but still... a girl.

THE HAMMER  
 I'm the woman who's going to  
 destroy you.

Freeze on The Hammer, looking super evil.

SUPER: THE HAMMER - DESTROYER OF WORLDS (AND A WOMAN).

Back-and-forth. Forth-and-back. The Hammer with her hammer; Darryn with his sword. Darryn misses each time. Is The Hammer that fast? Or is Darryn just half-a-tick slower than usual?

The Hammer KICKS Darryn, and he slides through the mud to the CLIFF'S EDGE. She stands over him, raises her hammer high, and SMASHES it down. Darryn dodges at the last second.

He stumbles to his feet, grabs his stomach.

DARRYN

What is this? It couldn't have been all that alcohol I drank, could it?

He shakes it off, keeps moving.

He may be slower, but for all of his arrogance and stupidity and womanizing, Darryn is really friggin' good at fighting.

He kicks it up a notch and finally breaks through The Hammer's defenses, knocks her to her knees.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

You thought you had me, huh?

He smiles smugly, points to his sword.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Sword of Awesomeness. Greatest sword ever created.

The Hammer stares directly at Darryn. He swings his sword. The Hammer's face piercings burn an evil red and CLANK! The sword MELTS over her head.

Metal drips down, burning itself into her face. She laughs. Darryn's seen a lot of things, but...

DARRYN (CONT'D)

What the - that was the greatest sword ever created. The greatest...

THE HAMMER

You men and your swords. There is no sword that can save you from me.

The Hammer climbs to her feet. Darryn charges, but she easily knocks him to the ground.

From behind The Hammer, a horse rides up fast. A lean figure, leather armor, the lower half of her face hidden by half a skull-shaped mask. Is that? It is! Kala (if that even is her real name!).

DARRYN

Kala! If that's even your real name!

She contemptuously stares at him from her horse.

KALA

How did you even make it this far?  
I put enough poison in that drink  
to kill a man twice your size.

Darryn slowly makes it to one knee, then his feet.

DARRYN

You tried to poison me? Do you know  
how much drugs and alcohol I've put  
into my system over the years? I  
mean, one time I took so much--

KALA

Can you just shut him up?

THE HAMMER

Gladly.

The Hammer swings. BOOM! Darryn goes FLYING OVER THE CLIFF'S EDGE and down into...

DARRYN'S POV

Blackness. Trees and sand and dirt as he rolls by. Blackness. Rolling trees again. Blackness. A bird looks at him strangely, followed by more blackness.

END DARRYN'S POV

EXT. CLIFFSIDE - BEACH

The peaceful crashing of waves. A sandy beach. CRASH! Darryn lands on his back, beat to shit, every bone broken. But alive.

Barely.

DARRYN

Ow.

FADE TO BLACK.

SUPER: THREE YEARS LATER.

EXT. MUDDY ROAD - NIGHT

Rain pours down. A small, hooded figure slips and slides through the mud. Lightning crashes, and we get our first glimpse of AMARISA (14). Bookish. Young. But determined.

She bumps into one of the Hammer's black-armored soldiers. He sneers and pushes her away.

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Amarisa makes her way through the tavern where she finds a large warrior-type. From the back, looks kinda like Darryn. The warrior turns around and - it's not Darryn. This is TURK THE DESTROYER (who will return later).

Amarisa throws a few coins on the table. Turk laughs and shakes his head no. She gathers up her money.

EXT. MUDDY ROAD - NIGHT

Back in the rain, The Hammer's soldiers stalk the streets, harassing townsfolk. Amarisa pulls up her hood and walks on.

INT. THE NEXT TAVERN - NIGHT

Another tough, scarred warrior. Even crazier than Turk. This is POLSTAN THE MANIACAL (who will not return later). She throws her money down. Same result - No.

MONTAGE - AMARISA LOOKS FOR HELP

Amarisa goes from tavern to tavern, looking for someone - anyone! - to help her. Each "warrior" is worse than the last.

-- William the Able-Bodied -- He's ok. Not as tough looking as the other two. He shakes his head no.

-- John the Try-Hard -- Fat. Pimple-faced. Armor barely fits. Shakes his head no.

-- Steve the Average -- Skinny. Coke-bottle glasses. No.

END MONTAGE

INT. ANOTHER TAVERN - DAY

The kind of place where you'll catch something for sure, either a disease or a knife. Only the drunkest of the drunks.

Amarisa enters. Drenched, tired, but resilient. She steels herself and cuts through the tavern to a lone corner table.

At the table - so many bottles and glasses that we can barely see the two men passed out there.

CRASH! She pushes a few bottles off the table. No response. PLINK! PLINK! She throws her coins down. One of the men raises his head just enough to use his half-open eyes.

Dirty. Fat. Rusted, broken armor. Is that stink from the fact that he hasn't showered since that fateful day? Or is it from that same old arrogance? Either way, this is DARRYN now.

AMARISA

Are you Darryn the Bold?

DARRYN

Sure. Autograph. Here you go.

He reaches out blindly, as if trying to sign her face. She smacks his hand away and pulls back her hood. She's young, inexperienced, but she doesn't know that. Amarisa's fourteen going on forty, and she has a mission.

AMARISA

I don't want your autograph. I want your help. The Hammer killed my family, and you're all I have left.

Darryn doesn't look up.

DARRYN

Go away, girl.

AMARISA

I said, The Hammer killed my family, and you're all I have--

DARRYN

And I said, go away, girl.

AMARISA

My name isn't girl; It's Amarisa Albright. My mother is Suzemuh Albright. I--

DARRYN

Suzemuh Albright? I used to know a Suzemuh Albright. I haven't thought of her in, like, fourteen years.

Darryn sits up, pour another shot. Amarisa stares at him.

AMARISA  
Suzemuh Albright was my mother. And  
you are my--

DARRYN  
Hero. I get it. But I'm retired.

Darryn downs his drink.

AMARISA  
You're not my hero. You're my  
father.

Darryn spits out his drink all over the man passed out at the  
table. That man doesn't move.

DARRYN  
What?

AMARISA  
I said, you're my father.

He looks at her. Resemblance? Could be. He takes a shot. And  
another. And...

DARRYN  
All right. Who put you up to this?  
Ryn, was this you? Such a joker!

Darryn smacks the passed out man. He doesn't move.

AMARISA  
No one put me up to this. In fact,  
my uncle said I should never speak  
to you for any reason. He said you  
were nothing but an arrogant  
asshole who looked for swords  
because you felt empty inside.

DARRYN  
Language! And your uncle sounds  
like an arrogant asshole.

AMARISA  
My uncle is dead.

Amarisa sits down and pulls book after book from her bag.

AMARISA (CONT'D)  
I know that you used to be great...

DARRYN  
What?



AMARISA

I've read all of your adventures.  
*Darryn the Bold and the Blade of  
Greatness. Darryn the Bold and the  
Dagger of Strength. Darryn the Bold  
and the Sharp Stick of Excellence.*

DARRYN

Oh, that was a good one.

She reaches inside a book, pulls out a hand drawn MAP.

AMARISA

But I also know there was one sword  
you never found. Look at this.

She holds the map to Darryn's face. He eyes it, suspiciously.  
There's a piece missing.

DARRYN

Laughing Mountains. Sea of Sand. Al-  
Pardi. Sure, I know these places.

AMARISA

This is a map to The Sword of  
Boldness.

Darryn spits his drink out again. He grabs the map and looks  
more closely.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

My mother became obsessed with The  
Sword. She worked for years to put  
together the clues.

Darryn traces the path with his finger. The path goes toward  
the missing piece.

DARRYN

What's this?

AMARISA

That piece is missing, but, the  
last place The Sword was seen was  
Al-Pardi. We go there. We find the  
final piece, and we find the Sword  
of Boldness!

DARRYN

So... you don't have a map. You  
have a map to a map.

Amarisa leans in.

AMARISA

I know The Hammer kicked your ass..

DARRYN

That's not exactly how I tell it.

AMARISA

...and I know that you were healed by the Celibate Order of the Salubrious Monks.

DARRYN

Oh gods, don't remind me. Two-and-a-half years of no women. But a lot of beer. For the pain.

AMARISA

Think about it: We find The Sword, we stop The Hammer, and you prove to the world that you're the greatest hero who ever lived.

DARRYN

I don't have to prove anything, girl. Everyone knows who I am.

RYN THE DRUNK, a thin, sleepy (and now soaked with alcohol) man, finally lifts his head from the table.

RYN THE DRUNK

Hey Derek, hand me that drink.

DARRYN

Sure, here you go. And it's Darryn.

RYN THE DRUNK

Right. Thanks, Darryl.

Ryn takes the drink and passes back out. Amarisa can't even.

AMARISA

The Hammer is looking for this. If she gets The Sword, she'll--

DARRYN

Take over the world. New era of darkness... Yadayada. Look, I get it. You're a fan. You read a few books and made up a story and drew a map because you want to go on a quest with DTB. But I'm retired.

AMARISA

You think you were my first choice?  
You think I said, "Look at that  
old, fat guy passed out in the  
corner. That's the hero for me."

Darryn pours another shot, downs it.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

I've gone to everyone. I went to  
the best: Polstan the Maniacal.  
Turk the Destroyer.

DARRYN

Turk's really not that great.

AMARISA

I went to all the others: William  
the Able-Bodied. John the Try-Hard.  
Steve the Average.

DARRYN

I don't know who those people are.

AMARISA

Exactly. You're my last hope.

Darryn takes another drink.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Please. If I don't find this sword,  
my family's death will be for  
nothing. I can't let them down. We  
have to do this.

DARRYN

Let me get this straight: You want  
me to take your map, travel halfway  
across the world for another map,  
which might lead us to a sword, so  
I can fight the woman who nearly  
killed me and avenge your family?

AMARISA

Yes!

DARRYN

For free?

AMARISA

Yes!

Darryn crumples the map, tosses it back to her.

DARRYN

I'm sorry about your mother. And your jerk uncle. But, your mother and I, we just had fun. You were a mistake. We never meant to--

AMARISA

What?

DARRYN

Uh, I mean, you're not a mistake. Just you being born was a mistake. That doesn't sound better.

Amarisa stands up, grabs a bottle, beans Darryn in the head.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Ow!

AMARISA

No. You know what the mistake was? Coming here. I should have listened to my uncle. You're nothing but a fat, drunk loser.

Darryn rubs his head.

DARRYN

I'm a lot of things - bold. Handsome. Fun at parties.

AMARISA

Delusional.

DARRYN

But I'm not a loser. I'm retired.

AMARISA

You're right. You're worse than a loser. You're a coward.

Darryn grips his shot glass tight.

DARRYN

Watch it, girl.

AMARISA

Or what? You'll drink more?

Darryn throws his shot back. Extra hard.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

I'm glad you're not coming. I wouldn't want to be seen with you.

The other bar patrons are starting to stare.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

I hope no one ever finds out I'm your daughter. I don't want anyone to know I have a coward's blood in my veins!

DARRYN

If you're so brave, then why don't you just find The Sword and fight The Hammer yourself!

AMARISA

Fine! I will!

She runs away, up the stairs. Darryn leaps to his feet.

DARRYN

Fine! Good! I'm staying here and - oh. Stood up too fast.

Darryn, drunk and stupid, falls to the ground, blacks out.

EXT. DREAM WORLD - DARRYN'S DRUNKEN DREAM

Darryn floats through blackness, as talking heads rotate by, playing pieces of previous conversations.

AMARISA

Are you Darryn the Bold?

KING RAWLIN

...Darryn the Bold...

KALA

...Wow... So amazing...

SOLDIERS

...Darryn! Darryn! Darryn!

DARRYN

I'm Darryn the Bold. The greatest hero who ever lived.

KING RAWLIN

...one of the greatest heroes...

KALA

...the greatest hero ever should have The Sword...

AMARISA  
 ...you used to be great...

DARRYN  
 Wait a minute...

AMARISA  
 ...I went to the best: Polstan...  
 Turk...

RYN THE DRUNK  
 ...Thanks, Darryl...

AMARISA	KALA
Are you Darryn the Bold? Are you... Are you... Are you?	...Should have The Sword... Should have The Sword...

Everything blurs together, faster and faster, into a swirling vortex of white light and noise and we're back into the...

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Much livelier than earlier. Two floors full of music, drinking, and the most fantastic group of creatures ever.

Darryn's body is still a heap on the floor, passed out from that morning. Dwarves step on him. Humans step around him, but no one helps him. Suddenly - his eyes shoot open!

DARRYN  
 Yes! Ok! I'll do it.

He lumbers to his feet and pushes his way through the crowd and up the stairs. He stops at the top, breathing hard.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
 A few more stairs than I remember.

ON THE SECOND FLOOR NOW, there's a few doors. He heads to the first, raises his hand to knock, stops. Girlish giggles. A man's laugh. Sounds like they're having a good time.

Darryn walks on, stops, comes back for another quick listen. Yep, still having fun. On to THE NEXT DOOR. He knocks.

Amarisa opens the door, holds a few BOOKS in her hands.

AMARISA  
 Ok, I'm ready. Let me just- You!

She tries to slam the door. Darryn stops it.

DARRYN  
Ok, girl, stop asking. I'll do it.

AMARISA  
What? Get out of here! How did you even know where I was?

DARRYN  
I had a vision.

AMARISA  
A vision? You're drunk.

DARRYN  
Uh, yeah. Your point?

Darryn walks past her and into

AMARISA'S ROOM

Small. Sparse. A bed with a backpack and some THICK books. Darryn casually grabs a book.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
This your plan? To bore The Hammer to death?

AMARISA  
You can't just walk in here.

Amarisa grabs her book, stuffs it into a backpack that's already full to bursting.

DARRYN  
And you can't fight with books, girl. Gimme that.

AMARISA  
What are you-- Hey!

He grabs the backpack, dumps all the books out on the bed.

DARRYN  
You don't need all that. Just grab your sword, and let's go.

AMARISA  
I don't have a sword, and I don't need you. I got someone else.

DARRYN  
What?

AMARISA

A real hero. He overheard over conversation, said he'd do it. He's on his way now.

DARRYN

What happened to "Oh Darryn. You're my dad. Help me, Darryn."

She shrugs, jams her books back into her backpack. Darryn flips through a book, as he talks to her.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Your hero - was he the one who killed ten orcs with one swing of The OrcSlicer? Or was that me? Was he the one who survived for three span in the Ice Lands wearing nothing but the skin of a Snow Tiger? Oh, that was me too. Did he--

AMARISA

No, but you know who he is? He's the guy who's not afraid of The Hammer. And he's young and he's handsome and he can swing a sword. I bet you couldn't even make it up the stairs without stopping to catch your breath.

Darryn stops flipping through the book. Shows it to Amarisa.

DARRYN

Is he in any of your books?

INSERT - THE BOOK, which shows a smug Darryn holding a sword.

BACK TO AMARISA'S ROOM

Amarisa sighs.

AMARISA

Why are you even here? I've got no money, and you said yourself you've got nothing left to prove.

DARRYN

That's true, but, if you are who you say you are, well, I might feel bad if anything happened to you.

AMARISA

You might feel bad?



DARRYN

Plus, it's like you said: I'm the greatest hero ever and...

AMARISA

That's not at all what I said.

DARRYN

...it dawned on me that, these days, all I hear about is Turk and Polstan and Steve! I think my reputation might be dying a bit.

AMARISA

Not dying. Dead. Absolutely dead.

DARRYN

But, if I do this quest and I get the Sword of Boldness, I'll prove once and for all that I am the greatest hero ever. Plus, you'll get to brag to your friends about how you went on a quest with DTB. You do have friends, right?

AMARISA

I have friends.

DARRYN

Good! Then it's a win-win.

AMARISA

That sounds more like a singular win - for your ego. This is really just all about you.

DARRYN

Also a win! Great! This was a real teaching moment. I think I'm getting the hang of this dad thing.

A loud knock at the door.

AMARISA

Finally.

She opens the door and it's - two of the Hammer's soldiers. MUSTACHE has a nefarious 'stache that would make any hipster jealous. BALDY has been hit in the head one too many times.

BALDY

This her?

MUSTACHE

How many little girls you think are  
in this place? Grab her!

Baldy shrugs, wraps his meaty paw around Amarisa's wrist.

AMARISA

Ugh! Lemme go!

DARRYN

Hey! Get your damn hands off her!

Mustache notices Darryn and enters the room.

MUSTACHE

You look familiar. Do I know you?

DARRYN

Of course you know me. I'm Darryn  
the Bold. Slayer of the Red Dragon  
of Pondor. Destroyer of the--

MUSTACHE

No. That ain't it.

What is it? Ah! Mustache snaps his fingers!

MUSTACHE (CONT'D)

You're the guy that I find face  
down in the gutter every morning!

DARRYN

That's not me.

MUSTACHE

Sure it is. Baldy, look! It's the  
guy I've been telling you about.

BALDY

Huh-uh. He's fat like you said.

Darryn draws his sword. Mustache is unimpressed.

MUSTACHE

You drunks. Always wanna fight.

CLANK! They cross swords, step, parry, and clash again, until  
Darryn DISARMS Mustache and knocks him to the ground.

Darryn holds his sword high. Mustache's eyes go wide as the  
sword comes down. WHIFF! Darryn completely MISSES with the  
killing blow, his sword STUCK in the floor's wooden planks.

AMARISA

What the hell? How did you miss?

DARRYN

Language! I'm a little rusty. And I'm drunk.

Mustache is angry. And when he gets angry - he retreats and hides behind Baldy.

MUSTACHE

Get him!

Baldy throws Amarisa down, draws his own sword, and charges forward. Darryn tries to wrench his sword free from the floor, but no luck! What can he do?

He looks to the bed. Books! He tosses volume after volume at Baldy's bald head.

AMARISA

Hey! Those are my books!

Baldy swings his sword. Darryn blocks with a book! The two parry and move in a classic book vs. sword fight.

Baldy pushes Darryn back. He reaches for another tome, quickly reads the title: "ANCIENT HISTORIES OF THE AZMOORIAN WARS AS RECALLED BY THE POET EURYLOCHUS, VOL. 1."

DARRYN

"Ancient Histories of..." Who reads these things?

AMARISA

No! Not "Ancient Histories!" That's my favorite!

But Darryn doesn't hear. He grabs "Ancient Histories" and blocks Baldy's sword. The book is so thick the sword gets stuck in it.

Baldy tries to shake the book away, but he can't. So, he just drops the sword and charges at Darryn, knocking him

THROUGH THE WALL AND INTO THE NEXT ROOM

Where a small dwarf and a large woman lie in bed together. They both scream.

Baldy grabs Darryn. Darryn looks over Baldy's shoulder to see Amarisa in HER ROOM. Mustache has her.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Let me go, you mustached weirdo!

POW! POW! Baldy repeatedly punches Darryn in the face until Darryn grabs him and takes the fight out of the room and

INTO THE HALLWAY

Where they CRASH through the railing and fall

ONTO THE FIRST FLOOR

Right through a table of MINOTAUR DWARVES playing cards. They're bull-headed dwarves (in every sense).

Darryn lands on top of Baldy, who's out cold. He lumbers to his feet, sees more of the Hammer's soldiers, swords drawn.

A tough, cigar-chomping Minotaur Dwarf looks to the broken table, to the Hammer's soldiers, and finally to Darryn.

Now, as everyone knows, out of all dwarfs, Minotaur Dwarfs are the quickest to anger. Darryn smiles, nervously.

DARRYN

Hey, c'mon. It wasn't my--

Cigar Dwarf CHARGES and Darryn barely misses becoming a Darryn-kebab. Instead, Cigar Dwarf gores one of the Hammer's soldier. Another Minotaur Dwarf charges and soon we have a

FULL ON BAR BRAWL!

Soldiers match swords with mercenaries. Elves swing from chandeliers. A muscle-bound troll tosses a man onto a pile of orcs. It's fantasy insanity! Cigar Dwarf tosses his cigar, which lands in a pile of highly flammable alcohol, which starts a fire burning throughout the bar.

And through all of this, Darryn, dodges and weaves, fighting as little as possible.

A woman holds a mug of ale over some poor sap's head when...

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Whoa ho ho! I'll take that.

Darryn grabs the mug, drinks the ale, and hands it back. SMASH! The woman drops it on the guy's noggin.

IN THE CORNER OF THE TAVERN, Ryn raises his head.

RYN THE DRUNK

What's all this, huh? Do you know who I am? I'm friends with Dylan the Bloated. He'll cut your--

Ryn looks around and STAB! A Hammer soldier guts him.

RYN THE DRUNK (CONT'D)

Oh, that's not good.

Ryn falls dead.

Back to the brawl and - where's Mustache? There he is, dragging Amarisa through the bar.

Darryn navigates his way through the ruckus until he's face-to-face with Mustache.

DARRYN

Let the girl go.

Mustache points his sword at Amarisa's neck.

MUSTACHE

Back off drunk! Or I'll--

PLUNK! Mustache collapses as a sword hilt hits him from behind. Amarisa turns to see TOLAND (20s). Young, dashing, probably a vegan. The opposite of everything Darryn is now.

TOLAND

Let's get you out of here.

Toland leads Amarisa through the bar, cutting down soldiers with ease. Darryn follows them outside.

EXT. MUDDY ROAD - NIGHT

Two horses wait nearby. Toland helps Amarisa up.

TOLAND

Quick! On the horses!

(To Amarisa)

Follow our plan. Head for the meeting place. I'll find you there.

(To Darryn)

Sorry, I only brought two horses, but I did grab this.

Toland oh-so-gracefully tosses Darryn his sword, who whiffs it completely. The sword plops into the mud.

DARRYN  
What? How did you...

TOLAND  
I swung in through the upstairs window, hoping to get to Miss Albright before the soldiers did. Unfortunately, I was too late.

DARRYN  
And who are you?

AMARISA  
This is Toland. He's a real hero.

Toland smiles and sticks out his hand. Very excited.

TOLAND  
I'm Toland Longstream, sir. I'm helping Miss Albright find the Sword of Boldness!

Darryn picks up his sword, catches his breath. He doesn't shake Toland's hand.

DARRYN  
Oh, right. The handsome knight who can make it up all the stairs.

TOLAND  
Me? A knight? Oh, no, sir. I'm just a simple farm boy who practices swordplay for eight hours a day because I know I'm meant to be much more than-- Aaggh!!

SPLAT! A sword appears through Toland's gut. Who's holding the sword? MUSTACHE! Poor Toland. We barely knew you.

Darryn shoves Toland's dead body back on to Mustache, who collapses under the weight and falls into the mud. Darryn jumps up on Toland's horse.

AMARISA  
Oh my gods!

DARRYN  
C'mon on girl! Let's go!

AMARISA  
But Toland! He's--

DARRYN

Dead. And we will be too if we  
don't move. C'mon!

Mustache digs himself out from under Toland's body, just as Darryn and Amarisa ride away. The tavern burns behind him.

EXT. HAMMER'S CASTLE - NIGHT

High on a bare, desolate cliff - a castle with spires so tall they nearly pierce the half-lit moon.

THE HAMMER (V.O.)

I do not see the girl.

INT. HAMMER'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

A huge stone room, intimidating in its emptiness.

Torches illuminate The Hammer, who sits in a massive stone throne, carved out of the wall. Her hand taps the handle of her hammer. Kala stands nearby, watching. Waiting.

Shadows dance across the nervous face of Mustache.

MUSTACHE

You see, milord, there was a man.

THE HAMMER

Just one man?

MUSTACHE

Yes. He was quite good with a sword, but I did kill him.

The tapping grows faster, louder. Mustache notices.

MUSTACHE (CONT'D)

But then, uh, there was another man. Local drunk. Calls himself Darryn the Bold, like the old--

The tapping stops.

THE HAMMER

Darryn the Bold?

MUSTACHE

Yes, milord. Crazy drunk who--

THE HAMMER

Why did I not know of this before?

The Hammer eyes him. Choose your words carefully, Mustache.

MUSTACHE

He's really nobody. Just a drunk.

The Hammer lazily waves Mustache forward. He approaches.

THE HAMMER

If there is someone going around calling himself Darryn the Bold, I want to know about it.

MUSTACHE

Yes, milord. It won't happen again.

THE HAMMER

I know.

Mustache closes his eyes tight, preparing himself for the inevitable wrath of The Hammer when - nothing. He opens one eye, then the other. The Hammer gives him the get-out-of-here-nod. You don't have to tell him twice. Mustache runs. Fast.

KALA

Your tolerance of failure, sister--

THE HAMMER

Is fortunate. For you.

KALA

It's impossible. Even if Darryn survived the fall, my poison would have eventually--

THE HAMMER

Done nothing.

The Hammer stands and her soldiers snap to attention. She and Kala walk the dark hallway of the castle.

KALA

We must find The Sword. Each day, more rebels gather together, fortified by the idea of finding this weapon. If the right person finds it, my magic may not protect you from it.

THE HAMMER

Then I should crush them now. I'm not afraid.



KALA

Which is exactly why we need The Sword. When The Sword of Boldness is wielded by someone without fear, it's true power is released.

Kala stops, looks at her sister.

KALA (CONT'D)

Now we are powerful. But, with The Sword, we are unstoppable.

The Hammer likes the sound of that.

THE HAMMER

We'll find the girl and the map. No drunk fool will keep us from that.

The darkness of the castle fades into...

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Amarisa stares at the smoking city in the distance.

AMARISA

My home. My family. My friends. All gone. But you're still here.

She turns to see Darryn, drinking from a flask.

DARRYN

I know, right? You. On a quest with the greatest hero of all time. It's a lot to take in.

He holds the flask out to her. She looks at him like she'd rather be anywhere else. He shrugs and takes another drink.

AMARISA

Will you please just go away?

DARRYN

I never quit a quest once it's started.

AMARISA

I don't believe that.

DARRYN

And they burnt down my favorite tavern, so I got nowhere to go.

AMARISA  
That I believe.

She starts to pack up her horse.

AMARISA (CONT'D)  
I'm going to find The Sword myself.

DARRYN  
Really? And how many quests have you been on?

AMARISA  
Including this one? One.

DARRYN  
One? One?! I'd already killed the Serpent of Uth by the time I was your age. I hadn't even had my first drink yet! That's not true. I was quite drunk when that happened.

Amarisa shakes her head and climbs on her horse.

AMARISA  
Tombikato wrote that the longest journeys are the most rewarding.

DARRYN  
Sounds like he's never been on a quest either.

EXT. FOREST - MAIN ROAD - DAY

The two ride down a muddy forest path. Darryn - drink in hand. Amarisa reads the map.

DARRYN  
So, if you don't go on quests, what do you do for fun?

AMARISA  
We are not friends ok? I'm only with you because I'm stuck with you. As soon, as I meet up with the rebels, you can go find a new tavern to waste your life in.

DARRYN  
The who?

AMARISA

The rebels. Toland said they're hidden in the forest. Up ahead, there's a fork in the road, we go--

DARRYN

Girl, there's two things I'm good at: Finding swords, killing bad guys, and kicking ass.

Amarisa, confused.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

I don't know anything about rebels, but I know sword quests. I'll get us there.

Darryn takes a drink.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Face it - I'm the best shot you have at finding The Sword and avenging your family.

Amarisa looks at him as if she almost believes that.

AMARISA

Did you really do all those things I read about?

DARRYN

And more. Here's one you may not know. One time, when I was really--

AMARISA

If you're so great, then why'd you quit after The Hammer beat you?

DARRYN

I didn't quit. I retired.

AMARISA

Then, why'd you retire?

DARRYN

You ask a lot of questions.

AMARISA

I'm inquisitive. Eurylochus wrote, "Don't go through life unsure. If you don't know something--

DARRYN

Have you ever had a thought that you didn't read in a book first?

AMARISA

I like books. They give you knowledge. Experience.

DARRYN

You know what gives you experience? Experience. You can't just sit at home with your face in a book. You have to get out there in the world.

AMARISA

Says the guy who just sits in a bar with his face in a bottle. Also, you didn't answer my question.

DARRYN

The Hammer? She-- Hey! What's this?

They've arrived at a FORK IN THE ROAD. To the RIGHT: Dark. Creepy. On the LEFT: Also, dark and creepy.

AMARISA

I was literally just telling you about this.

DARRYN

Why are they both dark and creepy?

AMARISA

Because The Hammer, that's why. C'mon, Toland said we go right.

DARRYN

And Toland's dead, Miss One-Quest. You wanna be dead? Take his advice. Wanna stay alive? Follow me.

Darryn heads toward the path on the left. He yells back.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Or maybe just read a book about it!  
*Path Choosing for Rookies!*

Amarisa thinks about it, starts the other way, then...

AMARISA

Agh! This is a bad idea.

She rides ahead, following Darryn.

EXT. MUDDY ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Darryn rides smugly. Amarisa beside him.

DARRYN  
See? I told you. Experience.

Amarisa says nothing.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
Look. Maybe you and me - we got off  
on the wrong foot.

Amarisa doesn't respond.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
In the bar - I meant to say that...

Darryn trails off, uncomfortable. Amarisa stares forward.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
I just want you to know that I  
remember your mother, and she was  
great. She was right before  
Princess Jordana and right after--

AMARISA  
Ugh! You are so gross.

In his own (terrible) way, Darryn tries to be reassuring.

DARRYN  
Anyway, what I mean is, out of all  
the ladies I've bumfiddled, your  
mother was one of the best.

AMARISA  
Please stop talking.

DARRYN  
She was always very encouraging.

Amarisa rides on, speaks in spite of herself.

AMARISA  
She always spoke well of you. It  
was her brother, my uncle, who--

DARRYN  
I remember what he said. We don't  
have to talk about that again.

AMARISA

But mom never said anything bad. She told me the reason you weren't around was because you were off on some quest. And she used to read me those books about your adventures.

Darryn looks almost surprised by this. Couldn't be could it?

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Of course, now, I'm well aware that it was my uncle who was right.

DARRYN

Let's just focus on your mother.

AMARISA

She became obsessed with the Sword of Boldness. I guess she thought if she found it, you might come back.

Amarisa stops, looks at Darryn, snorts.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

I guess it kinda worked.

She rides on. Darryn follows.

DARRYN

Hey, look, girl. I'm--

AMARISA

What's that?

Amarisa points down the road, where two of The Hammer's SOLDIERS have stopped a hooded figure.

Darryn heads into the forest.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

DARRYN

Those are The Hammer's soldiers. They're looking for you.

AMARISA

But that person needs help.

DARRYN

It's a rough world, kid, and we're not out here to rescue idiots who travel alone.

AMARISA  
So, you're just going to hide?

DARRYN  
I'm going to keep us alive.

AMARISA  
Forget that. I'm helping.

She rides ahead.

DARRYN  
If you go up there, I'm not saving  
you. I mean it! You're on your own!

He sighs and shakes his head.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
I could be in a bar, drunk right  
now. I mean, more drunk.

EXT. MUDDY ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Two of The Hammer's black-armored SOLDIERS, MITCH and EDDY,  
interrogate a female TRAVELER (40s). A hood hides her face.

HAMMER SOLDIER MITCH  
Look, if you don't tell us where  
the girl is, then we have to take  
you to The Hammer.

HAMMER SOLDIER EDDY  
Do you want to get hammered off a  
cliff? That's a lot of death for  
you, and a lot of paperwork for us.

TRAVELER  
I told you. I'm just a traveler. I  
don't know anything about a girl.

AMARISA (O.S.)  
Hey! Leave her alone!

The three of them turn to see Amarisa riding toward them. The  
two soldiers turn to the Traveler with looks of "Don't know  
anything about a girl, eh?". She shrugs.

HAMMER SOLDIER MITCH  
All right, girl, come with us.

TRAVELER  
No. She's coming with me.

HAMMER SOLDIER EDDY  
 You just said you didn't know  
 anything about any girls. Now--

AMARISA  
 I can make my own decisions.

DARRYN  
 She's not going with anyone.

Hey! Darryn's here, despite what he said. The Traveler seems especially surprised.

TRAVELER  
 What the hell?

HAMMER SOLDIER EDDY  
 You look familiar. Do I know you?

DARRYN  
 Of course you know me. I'm Darryn  
 the Bold. I used the WolfCutter to  
 kill the White Wolves of Ottenberg.

The soldiers look at each other.

HAMMER SOLDIER EDDY  
 Do you know what he's...

HAMMER SOLDIER MITCH  
 Nuh-uh. Not a clue.

Doesn't register. Then, Eddy snaps his fingers.

HAMMER SOLDIER EDDY  
 You're the guy who's always passed  
 out in the bar. Mitch, look. It's  
 the guy I was telling you about.

HAMMER SOLDIER MITCH  
 Oh, yeah, he is fat.

The soldiers laugh. Darryn doesn't.

TRAVELER  
 He's not wrong.

DARRYN  
 How about a little gratitude for  
 the guy who's saving you, huh?

Darryn stumbles off his horse, but before he even gets close,  
 the Traveler takes her stick and SWING! BOOM! Mitch is down.



HAMMER SOLDIER EDDY

Whoa! Hey! Ok, everyone just calm--

POW! Stick to Eddy's face. He's out cold. Darryn is shocked.

AMARISA

That was so cool.

TRAVELER

You were saying?

DARRYN

See? I told you she was fine here.

Darryn turns to get back on his horse, but the Traveler blocks him with her stick.

TRAVELER

Not so fast.

He turns to her, smugly adjusts himself.

DARRYN

Look, lady. I get it. You can handle yourself. But you don't wanna mess with DTB, ok?

WHOOSH! Stick to Darryn's gut. He doubles over.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

That was really fast.

Darryn stands up, pulls out his sword.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

All right. I tried to warn you.

The Traveler casually leans on her stick as a ragtag GROUP OF REBELS emerges from the forest, all pointing bows and swords.

AMARISA

Whoa. They came out of nowhere.

TRAVELER

That's right, girl. Nowhere. And that's exactly where you'll end up if you stick with this loser.

DARRYN

Jeez, lady, I don't even know you.

He looks closer as The Traveler approaches.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Do I?

Then, it registers.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Oh! Hi--

BAM! She punches Darryn in the face. Out cold. Darkness.

INT. REBEL TENT - DAY

DARRYN'S POV

A fuzzy flickering of light. Voices fade in and out.

TRAVELER (O.S.)

...what we've been looking for...

AMARISA (O.S.)

...to the city of Al-Pardi and then  
to The Sword....

TRAVELER (O.S.)

...And your mother is? Really?

BACK TO SCENE

A make-shift command center. Amarisa and the Traveler stand at a table full of maps and papers. Darryn recovers nearby.

The Traveler grabs a mug, walks over to Darryn and leans down, revealing that she is JYNNY, Darryn's fiancé from before. Same woman, but she's gone full Sarah Connor on us - tough-as-nails soldier with a sword on her hip.

Freeze on Jynny.

SUPER: "JYNNY. ~~DARRYN'S FIANCÉ - IT'S COMPLICATED~~ - BADASS REBEL LEADER."

JYNNY

Here. This'll help your head.

Darryn pushes the drink away.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

Never knew you to refuse a drink.

DARRYN

Never knew you to hit so hard.

JYNNY

Things change.

DARRYN

Guess so. Last time I saw you, you didn't even know what a sword was.

JYNNY

Last time I saw you, you weren't so... whatever this is.

Darryn snaps the drink out of her hand, as he walks to the table, inspects the papers.

DARRYN

What's all this? You're playing general out here in the woods now?

JYNNY

This might surprise you, Darryn, but some people in the world still care about stopping The Hammer.

DARRYN

I care. I'm here, aren't I?

JYNNY

I mean people like Toland. Like my father. You know - the king you were hired to protect.

Darryn carelessly tosses the paper across the table.

DARRYN

Hey! I got hammered off a cliff protecting him. I almost died!

JYNNY

Maybe if you'd focused more on The Hammer and less on The Hammer's sister beforehand, you wouldn't have gotten hammered off a cliff!

DARRYN

That wasn't my fault! She seduced me with her magical... body.

JYNNY

Like it wasn't your fault when I found you with the Whores of Tolis?

DARRYN

That wasn't my fault either! I didn't know they were whores.

(MORE)

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
I just thought they were just women  
who wanted money for sex.

AMARISA  
Jynny, I think we're--

JYNNY  
Or how about the time I caught you  
"rescuing" the Virgin Queen of Yyz -  
from her virginity!

DARRYN  
It was her royal command!

AMARISA  
Darryn, let's focus on--

JYNNY  
What about the time I caught you in  
bed with the Thonyzian cat lady?

DARRYN  
That was one time!

AMARISA  
STOP!

Jynny and Darryn, both angry, look at Amarisa.

AMARISA (CONT'D)  
Bellerphone said, "A man cannot  
learn to swim in a shallow sea."

What is she talking about now? They stare at her, confused.

AMARISA (CONT'D)  
What I mean is, we don't have time  
for this. Yes, this rebellion needs  
some help, and, yeah, Darryn's kind  
of a loser.

DARRYN  
I'm right here.

JYNNY  
She's right.

DARRYN  
Again, right here.

JYNNY  
We don't have time for this.

Jynny stares down at Amarisa's map, sighs.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

We'll go over the Laughing  
Mountains, through the Sea of Sand,  
and into Al-Pardi, where,  
hopefully, we'll find The Sword. Or  
at least the last piece of the map.

Jynny rolls up the map, prepares to leave.

DARRYN

We? No way. I already got one girl  
to babysit. I don't need two.

Jynny stops, points to Amarisa.

JYNNY

I mean we - me and Amarisa. You're  
going to get her killed. It's a  
wonder you haven't already.

DARRYN

Look, girls, I know that I make  
questing look easy, but it's hard  
work. There's--

JYNNY

Darryn. Shut up.

DARRYN

Ok, but you know as well as anyone,  
there's no one better at finding  
swords than me. You need me.

Jynny looks to Amarisa. Amarisa looks to Jynny.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

Colder than a polar bear's toenail. Snow rages through the  
mountains, our crew barely visible. Jynny leads; Darryn lags  
behind. He stops to catch his breath.

JYNNY

You said we needed you!

DARRYN

I know how to go on quests, Jynny!  
I just need to-- What the?

Out of the blizzard, the ghostly shape of Ryn the Drunk.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

What are you doing out here?

RYN THE DRUNK  
 Me? I'm dead. I can't feel a thing.  
 What are you doing out here, David?  
 You could be home, getting drunk in  
 our favorite bar.

Ryn's ghost takes a drink.

DARRYN  
 They burnt it down.

RYN THE DRUNK  
 Really? Guess it's time to find a  
 new favorite bar.

Darryn looks as if he'd never thought of that, shakes it off.

DARRYN  
 Leave me alone, Ryn. I'm looking  
 for The Sword of Boldness.

RYN THE DRUNK  
 Bad idea. You were never able to  
 find it before. Why would you find  
 it now?

Darryn's still walking, but slowing down.

DARRYN  
 I have to say I thought you'd be a  
 little more encouraging.

RYN THE DRUNK  
 And even if you do, The Hammer is  
 just gonna kick your butt again.

DARRYN  
 Again, not helping.

KYN THE DRUNK  
 If you're not gonna quit, then at  
 least take a break.

DARRYN  
 Now that. That's a good idea.

Darryn, cold and tired, falls to his knees. Ahead of him,  
 Amarisa and Jynny walk through Ryn's ghost, as he fades away.

JYNNY  
 Darryn!

He falls flat on his face. The women stare down at his body.

AMARISA

We could just leave him here.

JYNNY

Don't tempt me. C'mon, grab a leg.

They each grab a leg and start pulling DTB through the snow.

AMARISA

He's even heavier than he looks!

As they struggle with Darryn, a snow bunny watches them. We dive INTO THE BUNNY'S EYE, which becomes a BLACK PUDDLE, showing our heroes.

KALA (V.O.)

There you are.

EXT. VILLAGE - TAVERN - DAY

Kala's hand breaks the puddle's image.

KALA

They're crossing the Laughing Mountains. Or attempting to.

The last few embers of the destroyed tavern burn out. Kala and The Hammer stomp through the remnants of the village.

THE HAMMER

So, Darryn the Bold still lives.

KALA

In a sense. They make for Al-Pardi. I'll see they make it no farther.

THE HAMMER

Will your plan work this time?

The sisters stare at each other. Tense. But then - the tension is broken by the SCREAM of a young girl.

The Hammer turns to see her soldiers holding a crying YOUNG GIRL (12) at sword-point, while the GIRL'S FATHER (40s) begs for their lives.

GIRL'S FATHER

Please, don't hurt my daughter. I swear, I don't know who--

SOLDIER LEADER

Don't worry; we'll take good care--

BOOM! Out of nowhere, The Hammer BACKHANDS her own man. Teeth fly. Blood flows. His body tumbles to the ground. The other soldiers snap to attention. Terrified.

The Hammer grabs the Girl's Father, her pierced face in his, her breath hot on the cold air. She looks at him scornfully.

THE HAMMER  
You love your daughter.

GIRL'S FATHER  
Yes, of course. More than anything.

THE HAMMER  
Then tell me: Why are you so weak?

GIRL'S FATHER  
What? But it's not my fault. You--

But his words are stifled by The Hammer's cold hand.

YOUNG GIRL  
No! Please! Stop!

The Hammer's eyes slowly shift to the Young Girl.

THE HAMMER  
This is a valuable lesson, girl. No one is coming to save you. Not your father. Not some hero. No one.

She throws the Girl's Father down in a heaving, wheezing heap. The girl hugs him close, as The Hammer kneels, eyeball-to-eyeball with the Young Girl.

THE HAMMER (CONT'D)  
You alone decide what that means:  
Play the victim like your father  
here. Or grow strong.

The girl wipes away tears, as The Hammer gives a thin smile.

THE HAMMER (CONT'D)  
I suggest you toughen up.

EXT. SEA OF SAND DESERT - DAY

Hot as the mountains were cold. Our weary crew rides through sand, sand, and more sand.

AMARISA  
You guys were together that long?



Jynny looks to Darryn - fat, drunk, covered in sweat.

JYNNY

It might be hard to believe now,  
but he used to really be something.

AMARISA

So, he wasn't always such a jerk?

JYNNY

No, he was. It was always about  
him. But when he stopped with all  
"The Bold" stuff, there was a good  
person in there. Sometimes I'd  
catch him playing with the street  
kids or helping some old lady.

She smiles slightly.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

But that stuff doesn't make good  
stories, so it was always more  
about The Magic Sword of Whatever  
or the Big Monster of Something.

Jynny watches as Darryn nearly slides off his horse.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

I guess I thought I could bring  
that other side out more.

She shakes the thought out of her head.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

Oh well. Dumb girl stuff. Darryn is  
Darryn. He'll never change.

AMARISA

So all those stories? Those are  
true? Even the dragon thing?

JYNNY

Even the dragon thing.

Darryn speaks up, as if he's been listening.

DARRYN

The Pondorians were very grateful.  
Everyone told them the dragon  
couldn't be killed, but I did it.

JYNNY

The Pondorian Princesses were  
especially grateful, weren't they?

DARRYN

That wasn't my fault. I can't not  
let them express their gratitude.

Amarisa looks just ahead and...

AMARISA

Look! We're here. Al-Pardi.

In the distance - the fantastic city of AL-PARDI, the only  
port in the Sea of Sand desert. The last city that even hints  
at civilization.

EXT. CITY OF AL-PARDI - STREET - BAZAAR - DAY

A six-tusked mammoth navigates the crowded streets of this  
fantastic middle-eastern bazaar. Dwarven merchants shout. Old  
women haggle. The smell of spices wafts through the air.

From the side THREE WOMEN (20s), with veils covering their  
faces, watch as our crew rides through the streets. One is  
very EXCITED. One is more CYNICAL. Another is very TOUGH.  
They pull the veils down to speak.

EXCITED WOMAN

There they are!

CYNICAL WOMAN

Will you shut up? I can see that.

TOUGH WOMAN

You sure that's them? Kala said it  
was a drunk, a kid, and a princess.  
She don't look like no princess.

EXCITED WOMAN

Oh! Maybe that's not them. Sad.

CYNICAL WOMAN

Oh, sure. It's that other group  
with a kid, a drunk, and a princess  
who think's she's a soldier.

Cynical smacks Excited in the head.

CYNICAL WOMAN (CONT'D)

C'mon. Let's go.

The women pull their veils up and disappear into the crowd.

Ahead - Amarisa rides just in front of Darryn and Jynny.

JYNNY

Did you even ask who her mother was? Or was it straight to excuses?

DARRYN

For your information, she told me. And, yes, I remember Suzemuh. I remember every girl who I've ever--

JYNNY

I know, Darryn.

DARRYN

But just because I knew her mother doesn't mean she's my daughter.

JYNNY

Sure. I bet she's making it all up just to be around you.

DARRYN

Do you know how many mothers tell their kids that I'm their father? Do you know how many fathers tell their kids that I'm their father?

JYNNY

And here I thought The Hammer might have knocked some sense into you. It doesn't really matter if she's your daughter or not. She came to you for help. So help her.

Darryn takes a big pull from his flask.

DARRYN

You've changed, Jynny.

JYNNY

And you haven't. You still think it's all Darryn, all the time. Maybe try thinking of someone else.

Before Darryn can reply, Amarisa turns to them.

AMARISA

I think we should go to every tavern here.

Jynny, shocked.

JYNNY

What?

AMARISA

We had a long journey. We could  
rest up. Darryn's probably thirsty.

Darryn puts his head back and drinks from the flask until  
it's empty. He tosses it away.

DARRYN

Very.

JYNNY

We don't have time for drinking. We  
have to find The Sword.

DARRYN

The girl wants to see the taverns.  
Maybe try thinking of someone else.

Darryn and Amarisa ride ahead.

JYNNY

We don't have-- we have to find--  
This is a bad idea.

Jynny catches up with them.

INT. AL-PARDI TEAHOUSE - DAY

Elves lounge on pillows and drink from mugs. Goblins smoke  
long hookah pipes. Humans converse with orcs. Amarisa quickly  
moves through the room, looking for something.

DARRYN

Finally. We can just sit and--

AMARISA

This isn't the place. Let's go  
somewhere else.

DARRYN

But we just got here.

But Amarisa's already outside. Darryn and Jynny, confused.

MONTAGE - TAVERN HOPPING

-- INT. TEAHOUSE - DAY -- Another similar teahouse. Amarisa  
looks around.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Ok! Let's get a--

AMARISA  
Not this one.

-- INT. NEXT TEAHOUSE - DAY -- Amarisa quickly looks. Darryn almost orders a drink when she shakes her head no.

DARRYN  
Oh, c'mon!

-- INT. FANCY TEAHOUSE - DAY -- A really nice place. Ladies and gentlemen dressed in their finest.

AMARISA  
Definitely not this one.

DARRYN  
Nope.

END MONTAGE.

INT. TAVERN - DAY

This seedy dive bar is more our speed. It surges with excitement. Criminals, pirates, crooks, they're all here.

DARRYN  
We've been everywhere, and we haven't had one drink.

Amarisa notices an especially raucous crowd in the back. She turns to Darryn, excited.

AMARISA  
I think this is the one!

DARRYN  
Since when do you know so much about drinking?

AMARISA  
Darryn look! It's...

And that's when he sees it.

AMARISA (CONT'D)  
Garryn the Great!

The crowd parts and a man stands in the center. A rugged, fit man, with the perfect amount of stubble and battle scars that make him even more handsome. He looks a lot like Darryn, if Darryn were older and better. This is GARRYN THE GREAT (60s).

GARRYN

...and that's when I said, "Ladies if it's gonna be that kinda party, you need a bigger cauldron!"

The whole crowd bursts into hilarious laughter.

DARRYN

No way.

JYNNY

He hasn't changed a bit, has he?

Garryn doesn't notice them.

GARRYN

But you don't wanna hear these boring stories.

FAN OF GARRYN 1

C'mon, Garryn! One more!

GARRYN

Ok. One more. So...

Darryn turns to leave.

DARRYN

Let's get outta here.

AMARISA

Wait! Where are you going? He was the last person to see The Sword!

DARRYN

Supposedly!

JYNNY

She's right. If anyone knows where The Sword could be, it's Garryn. He is the greatest he--

Jynny stops short. Darryn stares daggers at her.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

He is one of the greatest heroes of all time. Maybe he knows where it is. Maybe he has it.

DARRYN

If he had The Sword, we would know. The whole world would know.

JYNNY

Maybe he knows where it isn't. We need all the help we can get.

DARRYN

I'll find it.

JYNNY

We don't have time for this.

DARRYN

I'm not talking to him!

But it's too late.

AMARISA

Garryn! Garryn!

Garryn turns to see Amarisa and past her, he sees...

GARRYN

Is that? Oh my gods, it is!

Darryn clenches his teeth. Garryn, jovial, embraces Darryn.

GARRYN (CONT'D)

Everyone! You know who this is right?

The crowd looks to each other, shrugs.

GARRYN (CONT'D)

This is Darryn the Bold! This is my son!

Everyone cheers! Freeze on Garryn, laughing.

SUPER: GARRYN THE GREAT. ~~GREATEST HERO~~ - ONE OF THE GREATEST HEROS OF ALL TIME (AND DARRYN'S DAD).

GARRYN (CONT'D)

What happened to you, son? I heard you were dead.

DARRYN

That was three years ago, dad, and I wasn't killed, but thanks for your concern.

GARRYN

So, you didn't die with honor like a man. You just got your butt kicked by a woman.

DARRYN

Saying The Hammer is just a woman  
is like saying a dragon is just a  
lizard. She's huge and she's--

GARRYN

Ooh! She's huge!

Mocking oohs and aahs from the crowd.

GARRYN (CONT'D)

A dragon is just a lizard. And I've  
never seen The Hammer.

DARRYN

You haven't seen her because you've  
been hiding out here in the middle  
of nowhere.

GARRYN

But you can bet, that if I do, The  
Hammer will be getting nailed!

Garryn takes a shot and makes pelvic thrusting motions.

GARRYN (CONT'D)

And by nailed, I mean--

JYNNY

We know what you meant.

GARRYN

Jynny. Good to see you again. Going  
for more of a bad girl look these  
days, huh? I like it.

JYNNY

Piss off, Garryn.

GARRYN

Oh, yeah. I like it a lot. You ever  
wanna see what a real man's like,  
just say the word.

DARRYN

Dad, I'm right here.

GARRYN

I know.

Garryn turns to Amarisa.

GARRYN (CONT'D)

And who might you be?



JYNNY

That's your granddaughter.

GARRYN

He's your father? I'm sorry.

Garryn sits at a table full of alcohol. Takes a shot.

GARRYN (CONT'D)

To what do I owe the pleasure? Or did you just come here to remind me of how much a failure my son is.

AMARISA

The Sword of Boldness, sir.

Garryn takes another shot.

GARRYN

The SOB. The greatest sword of all time for the greatest hero of all time.

DARRYN

You're not the greatest hero of all time.

AMARISA

Actually, many books do list as him as the greatest--

Darryn shoots her a look.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

As one of the greatest heroes of all time. Anyway, so you have it?

Garryn takes a shot.

GARRYN

If only. I lost it to a Frog Rider of Shako in a Paceran.

JYNNY

You lost the greatest sword ever made in a bet with a Swamp Dwarf?

Garryn takes a shot.

GARRYN

Paceran's hardly a bet, missy. It's an ancient Swamp Dwarf challenge that can't be turned down.

DARRYN

Yeah, Jynny, that's a little insensitive. It's an important part of their culture.

JYNNY

It's a stupid bet done by idiots.

AMARISA

So, where's The Sword now?

Garryn shrugs, drinks.

GARRYN

Shako Swamp, I guess.

JYNNY

You never tried to get it back?

GARRYN

I decided it's not my thing.

Darryn takes a shot.

DARRYN

See? He doesn't have it!

Garryn matches his shot.

GARRYN

But I did, boy! And isn't that why you came here? Because you couldn't find it? You need me to tell you where it is.

Darryn and Garryn go shot for shot as they argue.

DARRYN

I've never needed you for anything.

GARRYN

Maybe if you did, I could have taught you how not to lose.

DARRYN

Maybe you could have taught me if you were ever around.

GARRYN

Maybe if you had any real fighting spirit, I would have stuck around. Look at you. Pathetic.

DARRYN

I've done things, dad! I found the Sword of Awesomeness. I fought the Demon Bears! I rescued the Virgin Queen of Yyz!

GARRYN

Junk. Demon cubs. Who hasn't rescued the Virgin Queen of Yyz?

DARRYN

I killed the Great Red Dragon of Pondor!

Garryn shrugs. Darryn slams his hands down on the table.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

You never give me any credit!

GARRYN

Because you're a loser, son! You should be thanking me!

DARRYN

Thanking you? For what?

GARRYN

For making your life so great! Without me, you'd have never done those things. You only did them to prove you're better than me.

DARRYN

Yes!

GARRYN

If I'd stayed home and coddled you like your mother wanted, you'd be softer than you are. Your mother and I had a good thing before you! Then you were born and it was all about you!

JYNNY

Darryn, maybe we should go.

Darryn picks up a shot, sets it back down. Garryn grabs it and drinks it.

GARRYN

You lost to that woman because you're a loser. You know it. I know it. Sword or not, that's what you'll always be.

He stands, takes one final shot and walks off, turns back.

GARRYN (CONT'D)

And, on top of everything, you're a sloppy drunk.

Garryn stumbles through the crowd.

AMARISA

That did not quite go as I had envisioned it in my head. But, on the plus side, we know where The Sword is.

Darryn holds a shot glass in his hands. For a moment, he looks like he might put it down. Instead, he slams it back. Then reaches for another and another, before he stands up.

JYNNY

Darryn, are you--

DARRYN

Let's go.

He looks to Amarisa.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

You lied to me.

AMARISA

I didn't really-- Not exactly--

Darryn pushes his way through the crowd and out the door.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Amarisa and Jynny follow Darryn into the street.

AMARISA

Darryn, wait! I'm sorry. I didn't--

Darryn stops, turns around.

DARRYN

You didn't have a map to The Sword. You had a map to my father.

AMARISA

He was the last person who had it.

DARRYN

Supposedly.

AMARISA

Supposedly. And I knew he was last seen here. So I thought--

DARRYN

We'd just go and ask him, huh?

Amarisa nods, sheepishly

DARRYN (CONT'D)

In all of your books and research, did you ever come across the fact that Garryn has treated me like dirt since the moment I was born?

AMARISA

No. That didn't really come up.

Darryn walks off.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Darryn! Wait!

DARRYN

Go away.

JYNNY

Darryn, we have to get The Sword.

Darryn turns a corner.

EXT. STREET - BATHHOUSE BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

Three semi-clad women stand on the balcony of a BATHHOUSE building, watch as Darryn storms through the street, Amarisa and Jynny behind. One nods to the others; they walk inside.

EXT. STREET - BATHHOUSE ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

One of the balcony women walks out the entrance and into the street, right into Darryn.

EXCITED WOMAN

Oh! Excuse me. Are you Darryn the Bold? Oh my! What are the odds?

The other two balcony women stand in the bathhouse doorway. These are also the three women who were plotting earlier. They are actually SIRENS. Like Greek Sirens, their voices are as seductive as their appearance.

EXCITED WOMAN (CONT'D)  
Look! It's Darryn the Bold!

DARRYN  
You recognize me? I mean, of course, you recognize me.

The cynical woman pushes herself off the doorway.

CYNICAL WOMAN  
Can you relax? It's not like this is the first hero we've ever met.

EXCITED WOMAN  
But it's Darryn the Bold!

She notices Darryn's demeanor.

EXCITED WOMAN (CONT'D)  
Oh, Darryn. What's wrong?

DARRYN  
I found out my father still hates me, and my daughter's been lying to me. Kind of a rough day.

EXCITED WOMAN  
Oh, no. That's sad.

Jynny and Amarisa? Not impressed.

JYNNY  
And who are you?

The third, tough woman speaks up, smiles at Jynny. She's seductive too, but more in a take-no-shit type of way.

TOUGH WOMAN  
Don't worry, Princess Jynevieve. We know you, too. Mighty rebel leader.

Tough Woman smiles. Jynny can't help herself. Face turns red.

JYNNY  
You know who I am?

Amarisa turns to Darryn. To Jynny. To Darryn.

AMARISA  
Uh, guys?

Cynical Woman and Excited Woman each grab Darryn's arms.

EXCITED WOMAN

I know just what will cheer you up:  
A relaxing bath in our purifying  
waters. It's, like, the best.

CYNICAL WOMAN

It's ok. Try it or don't. Whatever.

Darryn is in another world. Jynny is not far behind. The women pull Darryn and Jynny into...

INT. BATHHOUSE - ENTRYWAY - DAY

Candles cast shadows around a cozy and private, but open, room. Stairs lead up. Curtains hide the bathing area.

DARRYN

Bath. Good.

JYNNY

Why not? We've been working hard.

The women start to pull Darryn and Jynny toward the back.

AMARISA

Something's not right here.

One of the women smiles. Amarisa sees an extra-pointy tooth.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Wait. I've heard of this. Sea of  
Sand desert. Al-Pardi tourist  
bathhouse. Mysterious, overly-  
friendly desert women...

She grabs a book from her pack, flips through it. A-ha!

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Oh no.

INSERT: A picture of a sexy Siren stabbing a guy who looks a little like Darryn. Another Siren in BIRD-FORM flies above.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Siren Assassins! This is bad.

Darryn watches as Tough Woman gently caresses Jynny's face.

DARRYN

This is awesome!

TOUGH WOMAN

He's right, Jynny. This'll be fun.

Darryn, Cynical, and Excited run back behind a curtain.

DARRYN  
Yeah, Jynny! Come on!

INT. BATHHOUSE - BATHING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Steam rises from a stone pool. Darryn leads the women to the water's edge. They help him disrobe.

EXCITED WOMAN  
Darryn the Bold! Tell us of your  
mighty adventures.

CYNICAL WOMAN  
Oh, please. We're so interested.

Darryn lowers himself into the water, leans back, eyes heavy.

DARRYN  
Hey, where'd everyone else go?

The women shrug. Darryn shrugs. Everyone laughs.

INT. BATHHOUSE - ENTRYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jynny stands between Amarisa and Tough Woman, confused.

TOUGH WOMAN  
C'mon. They're starting without us.

JYNNY  
I've never wanted to do this  
before, but suddenly I feel--

Amarisa grabs Jynny's hand.

AMARISA  
Jynny, look at me. She's trying to  
seduce you with her sultry voice  
and her extremely attractive body,  
but don't listen to her. She's--

Tough shoves Amarisa to the ground. Jynny shakes her head, trying to clear the cobwebs.

JYNNY  
No. You can't do that.

TOUGH WOMAN  
Forget about her. She's just a  
reminder of Darryn's stupidity.



JYNNY

But that's not her fault.

Jynny's hand goes to the hilt of her sword. Tough Siren places her hand over Jynny's hand. Oh no. Spell broken.

TOUGH WOMAN

We're getting in that bath.

JYNNY

Get. Your hand. Off. My sword.

Tough Siren growls. She's got long pointy teeth!

TOUGH WOMAN

Little girls who play with swords  
often end up stuck.

JYNNY

Weird chicks who try to hurt my  
friends often end up dead.

Jynny goes for her blade, but Tough pushes it back down into its sheath, while her other hand morphs into long claws and SWINGS. Jynny dodges, claws centimeters from her eyes.

Jynny strikes back, knocking Tough to the ground. She unsheathes her sword and goes on the attack. In a flurry that DTB only wishes he could do, she swings again and again, but Tough Siren avoids each swing until...

PUNCH! Tough sends a fist right into Jynny's face. The sword clanks across the room.

BACK TO DARRYN IN THE BATH

Darryn lies in total relaxation mode while Cyncial massages his shoulders and Excited feeds him. In the background, fighting sounds.

DARRYN

...then he was like, "You found all  
those swords cuz of me, Darryn.  
You're a loser, Darryn. I'm way  
better than you, Darryn."

EXCITED WOMAN

Oh my gods! That's hard.

CYNICAL WOMAN

Yeah. Sucks.

DARRYN

This is great. I feel like you guys really get me. Can we do something about that noise though? It's really killing the vibe.

Cynical looks to Excited, nods toward the fighting sounds. Excited stands up, struts from the room.

BACK TO THE FIGHT

Amarisa LEAPS on Tough's back. Tough easily tosses her across the room. THUD! She crashes into a wall.

Tough wipes blood from her face. No more games. She gets down on all fours and WINGS sprout from her back. Wings. Claws. Like some eagle from hell, she LEAPS at Amarisa, but...

...Jynny catches Tough MID-AIR and the two tumble...

THROUGH THE WALL AND

INTO THE STREET.

CRASH! Onlookers scatter as Jynny and Tough roll through the street until Jynny ends up on top. She rains down punches, permanently re-arranging Tough's face.

Amarisa yells from inside the bathhouse.

AMARISA

Jynny! Look out!

Like a spear, a winged Excited Woman rockets through the hole in the wall, into Jynny, knocking her away from Tough.

Claws! Swords! Fists! Wings! Jynny fights Excited Woman!

BACK TO DARRYN

In the background, noisy fighting screams from the women.

DARRYN

Seriously. That noise - I should--

CYNICAL WOMAN

I have a fun idea. Let's see how long you can hold your breath.

BACK TO THE FIGHT

Amarisa sees Jynny's sword on the floor of the bathhouse. She grabs it and steps out into the street.

AMARISA

Leave her alone!

Excited throws Jynny down and launches toward Amarisa. Amarisa doesn't think, holds the sword in front of her, and STABS Excited in the chest.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

OhMyGods! OhMyGods! OhMyGods!

Excited stumbles around, spurting blood, until Jynny grabs the sword from her chest. She falls down. Dead.

JYNNY

Nice work!

AMARISA

Jynny! Behind you!

Jynny turns just in time to see Tough speed toward her. Jynny takes the sword and HITS her in the head with the hilt.

Tough falls. Jynny stands over her, sword in hand.

JYNNY

The Hammer send you?

Tough spits out teeth, laughs.

TOUGH WOMAN

She said you were nothing but a drunk, a princess, and a kid.

JYNNY

She left out one important detail.

Jynny holds the sword high.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

We're on a mission.

SWOOSH! Her sword comes down. Tough is dead.

BACK TO DARRYN

Cynical holds Darryn's head under the water.

CYNICAL WOMAN

You're doing so well. This is probably the greatest--

SLICE! A sword decapitates Cynical, revealing Jynny. Darryn shoots up, gasping for air.

DARRYN

What? Where? Why am I naked?

JYNNY

C'mon Darryn. This is hardly the first time you've woken up wet and naked in a strange place.

Darryn starts to protest, shrugs instead.

AMARISA

This has happened before?

Jynny tosses Darryn his clothes.

JYNNY

He didn't tell you that one? All that's missing is the little gnome.

DARRYN

It wasn't like that. Seriously. It wasn't like that!

He yells to the women, but they're already gone.

EXT. CITY OF AL-PARDI - STREET - DAY

The street is quiet again. The crew saddles up their mounts, as vendors and onlookers give them plenty of space.

DARRYN

...so yes, technically, I was naked in a bath with a gnome, but it wasn't like that.

AMARISA

Darryn, it's Al-Pardi. It's fine.

FLASHBACK - EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

A younger KING RAWLIN (40s) watches as his SOLDIERS ride through the village, burning huts and killing peasants.

KING RAWLIN

Remind them who's in charge, men.

A burly BLACKSMITH (40s) frantically carries two young girls through the carnage. He hides them in the bushes, signals for them to be quiet.

Turning toward the soldiers, he grabs a hammer from his belt.

BLACKSMITH

You can't do this. We've lived here  
on this land for--

As he speaks, Rawlin rides past, slices him across the chest.  
The Blacksmith collapses, and the hammer falls from his hand.

KING RAWLIN

Know what the best part about being  
king is, boys? No one can tell you  
what to do.

The soldiers cheer, and Rawlin rides off. The Blacksmith  
reaches for the girls.

BLACKSMITH

Kala... Leila... I...

But his eyes fade, and he never finishes.

In the bushes, one very big girl, LEILA (aka YOUNG HAMMER)  
(8), has tears in her eyes. The other, YOUNG KALA (10), eyes  
full of hate, reaches for her father's hammer.

Soldiers shout, and fire burns all around them.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. DESERT - HAMMER'S TENT - NIGHT

The burning of the village becomes a white hot fire in The  
Hammer's desert tent. The Hammer stares into the flames.

KALA (O.S.)

Torturing yourself again?

Kala approaches the fire, as The Hammer turns away.

THE HAMMER

It's better than watching Darryn  
overcome your tricks again.

Kala smirks, reaches past Hammer and into the fire, where she  
pulls out a long, metal nail with her BARE HAND. Skin burns,  
but she acknowledges no pain.

KALA

Without my tricks, you'd still be  
that weak little girl crying for  
daddy.

Hammer walks to the center of the tent, kneels on one knee,  
so that Kala can reach her head. She meets Kala's eyes.

## THE HAMMER

You could've become The Hammer,  
sister, instead of the nail.

Kala holds the nail over a fleshy spot in The Hammer's head.

KALA

Are you ready?

The Hammer simply closes her eyes as CLANK! Kala drives the spike into The Hammer's skull.

KALA (CONT'D)

I could say it's the nail that  
holds things together. And the  
hammer is just the tool.

CLANK! She hits the nail again.

KALA (CONT'D)

But, in the end, they must work  
together if the goal is to create  
something new.

CLANK!

KALA (CONT'D)

Years we've waited. Overlooked.  
Even now, they underestimate us  
because of who we are.

CLANK! The nail takes its place amongst the other spikes in The Hammer's head. The Hammer stands up.

KALA (CONT'D)

Rawlin. Darryn. There's only one  
thing men like that truly respect:  
Fear.

Kala reaches up, dusts away residue from The Hammer's head.

KALA (CONT'D)

And, with The Sword, they will fear  
you forever. I will make sure of  
that.

They stare at each other. A moment of respect and love.

EXT. DESERT'S EDGE - CAMP - NIGHT

Across the desert, the sands give way to a ghostly fog in the distance. The crew sits around a fire: Darryn drinks. Jynny sharpens her sword. Amarisa stares at Jynny over her book.

JYNNY

You did good today, kid.

AMARISA

Me? You were totally badass. The way you sliced and cut and-- it was awesome. I wish I could do that.

Amarisa makes slicing motions in the air, as Darryn watches.

DARRYN

Oh yeah. You guys are a great team. The liar and the warrior princess.

Jynny stands up, tosses a dagger to Amarisa. Amarisa catches it. Her eyes go wide.

JYNNY

C'mon. I'm gonna teach you to fight so you don't have to depend on guys like him.

DARRYN

You're gonna teach her to fight?

They ignore him. Amarisa shadows Jynny as she speaks.

JYNNY

Put that in your right hand. Feet apart. Shift your weight. Good.

DARRYN

Gonna get her killed with all that thinking.

Jynny stops.

JYNNY

I'll have you know that this is how I learned. I studied firsthand with Monsieur L'Abbat, Miyamoto Musashi, High Master Sigmund Ringneck--

AMARISA

Oh! *The Knightly Art of the Longsword* is one of my favorites.

DARRYN

Blah blah blah. If you are my daughter, then fighting's in your blood, and all you need to know is this - stab the other guy before he stabs you.

JYNNY

Sure. Swing like a savage, and take your chances.

DARRYN

Savages win battles.

JYNNY

Until they don't.

Darryn bristles at this.

DARRYN

I've been fighting for thirty years. I think I know a little more than you, sweetheart.

JYNNY

How about we finish what we started back in the woods? Then she can choose the style she likes.

Darryn laughs. Jynny doesn't.

DARRYN

You wanna teach her? Fine, but I'm not bailing her out when she can't remember which foot goes where.

JYNNY

What's wrong, Darryn? Scared you'll get beat by a woman? Again?

That stings. Darryn shrugs, half-heartedly draws his sword.

DARRYN

Just don't start crying, ok?

He swings lazily. Jynny easily dodges, disarms him, and holds her sword to his neck. He pushes it away, picks up his sword.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

This is silly.

JYNNY

Does that mean you yield?

Darryn sighs, takes on a proper fighting stance.

DARRYN

Fine. You wanna play for real?

Swing. Miss. Swing. Miss. Every stroke gaining in intensity.



Darryn's a drunk. Darryn's an idiot. Darryn's a drunk idiot, but he's still really good at fighting when he wants to be. He connects! Hits Jynny hard in the ribs. She falls back.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

I tried to warn you.

He turns to Amarisa.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

That's what happens when you read a few books, take some lessons, and start to think you can-- Aagh!

Jynny sweeps the leg, sending Darryn onto his back. She kips up and brings her sword down fast. Darryn moves just in time.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

What the hell, Jynny?

Jynny stabs again and again, each thrust releases more pent-up anger. Darryn narrowly avoids becoming a pincushion.

JYNNY

What the hell? You were supposed to protect the kingdom! Protect my father! Protect me!

Darryn regroups, tackles her to the ground and sits on her.

DARRYN

That wasn't my fault! I tried, but--

Jynny flips Darryn over so that now she is on top. She punches furiously. Darryn tries to cover his face.

JYNNY

Nothing's ever your fault! You're always the victim! You never ever think about anyone but yourself!

DARRYN

Are you serious right now?!

She keeps hitting him.

JYNNY

Your father's a jerk. The Hammer kicked your ass. So what! You could have been anything! The greatest hero ever! Or a farmer! I don't care! But you chose to be an idiot!

DARRYN

Ok! Ok! I get it. I'm sorry.

He holds his hands up in surrender. Jynny stops punching him.

JYNNY

The old Jynny died that day, but I came back stronger. I don't need you. I never did.

DARRYN

Ok. I understand.

Jynny calms down, lets her guard down, when, out of nowhere, Darryn flips her over and has a blade to her neck.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

But I'm still the better fighter.

Jynny, tricked, silent anger. Darryn stands up, cautiously.

AMARISA

Hey! She stopped! You cheated.

Darryn backs away, slowly.

DARRYN

The only rule in battle is to stay alive. You wanna win tournaments, train with her. You wanna fight in the real world? Let me know.

Darryn slumps down, away from both of them, grabs a drink. Jynny wipes sweat from her brow, stares Darryn down.

EXT. DESERT'S EDGE - CAMP - NIGHT - LATER

Jynny teaches Amarisa sword moves. Darryn drinks, eyes heavy.

RYN THE DRUNK

So, Dylan the Old, you had to cheat to beat her?

The ghost of Ryn the Drunk walks out of the shadows.

DARRYN

You again! What are you doing here?

RYN THE DRUNK

I don't know. You're the drunk one.

DARRYN

If I don't show them, they're gonna get killed out here.

RYN THE DRUNK

If you can't beat Jynny, how are you gonna beat The Hammer?

DARRYN

Will you just go away! Every time you show up, you make me feel bad.

RYN THE DRUNK

You know there's only one way to win, right?

Darryn's eyes grow heavier and heavier.

DARRYN

Oh gods! I know how to do quests.

RYN THE DRUNK

I know I'm just a drunken ghost hallucination, but maybe if you actually-- hey! Hey David! Dawson!

Darryn's eyes close completely and a hand slaps him. Ryn is gone, but Jynny stands there.

JYNNY

Your watch.

EXT. CITY OF AL-PARDI - DAY

The last embers of the razed city burn out. A dead six-tusked mammoth lies on its side. Bodies strewn throughout the ruins. A wounded man crawls. A Hammer soldier stabs him dead.

In the center of the carnage, stand The Hammer and Kala. The Hammer has her boot on something. That something is Garryn. Kala smiles down at his beaten and bloodied body.

KALA

Shako Swamp. See? Was that so hard?

GARRYN

My idiot son was wrong about you, too. You're not so big. I've seen--

The Hammer pushes her boot down. Garryn gasps for air.

KALA

Did you know they have a saying in Al-Pardi, sister? Al-Pardi if you'll party.

THE HAMMER

Hmm. Stupid.

GARRYN

You. Wouldn't. Understand.

THE HAMMER

No. I wouldn't.

BOOM! She brings her hammer down on Garryn's head. He's dead.

EXT. EDGE OF SHAKO SWAMP - DAY

An ominous fog rises from the earth around dark trees, grim and foreboding. Multi-colored lights flash throughout.

JYNNY

There it is. Shako Swamp.

AMARISA

Those lights, they're beautiful.

DARRYN

Those lights are about the nicest thing you'll find in the swamp. And they're not very nice.

EXT. SHAKO SWAMP - CONTINUOUS

Dreary. Overgrown. Snakes and other more fantastic creatures slither nearby. Our crew steps cautiously, as if death could find them at any moment (which it definitely could).

One of those beautiful pulsating lights slowly floats toward Amarisa. She reaches for it.

The light goes out, revealing an ugly serpent-like creature with wings and huge teeth. SLICE! A sword chops it in half.

DARRYN

I told you - those aren't nice.

They walk on.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Cinderlings. Mud bats. Those are the easy parts. What you really have to watch out for are--

Darryn stops so suddenly that Amarisa nearly runs into him.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
The Koipu.

A KOIPU, a huge dog-like creature with big teeth and horns, sniffs nearby. It's ears perk up. Did it hear something?

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
Just back away slowly.

One step back. Two steps back...

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
And whatever you do, don't say its name.

The Koipu looks away, sniffing in a different direction.

AMARISA  
Seriously? If the name is the trigger, why not just call it something else? Like it even knows it's called a Koipu.

As soon as she says the word, she wishes she hadn't. The swamp dog creature looks directly at them and growls!

DARRYN  
Nice job, bookworm! Run!

SNAP! The Koipu's jaws just miss them, as they take off, full sprint through the swamp.

CRASH! One-by-one, they burst through an opening and tumble down to a slimy floor below. The Koipu leaps after them.

TRAPPED! The Koipu stands in front of them. It tries to step forward, but it's stuck. Our crew tries to run, but...

AMARISA  
I can't move my feet.

The Koipu whines. Not anger. Fear. It thrashes violently, trying to escape, but it can't break free.

JYNNY  
What have you done now, Darryn?

DARRYN  
Me? I'm not the one who thinks she knows everything!

AMARISA

Look! The ground. It's moving.

The vile pinkish, green swamp floor, wet with slime and dirt, is slowly dragging our heroes into...

JYNNY

It's going into that cave.

A dark, sludgy hole that looks like a cave, but, as they get closer, our crew realizes that...

DARRYN

That's no cave.

The "cave" is dripping with monster saliva and has two bulbous eyes. The "floor"? You guessed it - one big tongue.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

That's a Gutpaw.

A GUTPAW is a very, very big lizard with a sticky tongue long enough to be mistaken for a swamp floor and a mouth big enough to eat three humans and a Koipu at the same time.

SLURP! It sucks them all in and snaps shut.

The Gutpaw's swollen face smiles, contentedly, but then - gurgling sounds -and then- a look of indigestion on the Gutpaw's face. And then...

A sword SLICES through the creature's face, spilling Gutpaw juices all over the swamp. Finally, the head collapses. Dead.

Human hands appear through the cuts in the head, as Darryn, then Jynny, then Amarisa crawl out, covered in Gutpaw slime.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Gutpaws. Mostly harmless unless you land on their tongue.

AMARISA

Harmless? We were almost eaten!

JYNNY

He's actually right on this one. I'd rather be eaten by a Gutpaw then get captured by the...

The crew suddenly realizes they're surrounded.

DARRYN

Frog Riders.

SWAMP DWARVES (aka FROG RIDERS) are about five-feet tall, with blue-green skin and greenish beards. Their clothing is all plants, scales, and bones. Also - they're insane.

They sit on big, battle-scarred WAR FROGS. There is nothing cute or funny about these frogs. One dwarf, BOGMINER, speaks.

BOGMINER

Well, well. Take a butcher's at what we got here, eh?

Jynny's hand slides toward her sword. Another dwarf, STONEMARSH, levels his crossbow at her.

STONEMARSH

Nuh-uh, luv. I'd hate to ruin that pretty face of yers, wouldn't I?

Stonemarsh smiles, black and green teeth from ear to ear.

BOGMINER

So what brings a motley crew like this out our way, eh?

DARRYN

We were actually just leaving when--

AMARISA

You're the Frog Riders.

STONEMARSH

What was that, missy?

DARRYN

They don't actually like it when--

AMARISA

You've got the Sword of Boldness!

This catches the dwarves' attention. Bogminer leans forward.

BOGMINER

What'd ya say about the SOB, luv?

DARRYN

Nothing at all. We were just--

JYNNY

We need it. To kill The Hammer.

Darryn looks at Jynny. Shut up!

STONEMARSH

The Hammer, eh? Big broad, right?  
Lots of shite in her face?

JYNNY

That's her.

BOGMINER

Aye, we know her. She don't bother  
us here, do she?

Stonemarsh stares at Darryn. There's something there...

STONEMARSH

You look familiar. Do I know you?

Darryn is uncharacteristically shy.

DARRYN

Me? I don't think so.

AMARISA

Yes! This is Darryn the Bold. He  
killed ten goblins with one swing  
of the GoblinCutter.

But still he can't help correcting Amarisa.

DARRYN

It was orcs with the OrcSlicer, but  
you know what? That was so long  
ago, I barely remember it.

The dwarves take a closer look at Darryn, interested.

BOGMINER

The same Darryn what stole the  
Witches of Miras' Magic Mirror?

DARRYN

I wouldn't exactly say I stole it.

STONEMARSH

The same Darryn what killed the  
Great Red Dragon of Pondor?

DARRYN

Was that me?

The dwarves confer with each other, turn back to Darryn.

BOGMINER

We heard you was dead.



DARRYN

Not so much dead. More retired.

JYNNY

The Hammer kicked his ass.

DARRYN

Thanks, Jynny.

STONEMARSH

Thought you'd be more... not fat.

DARRYN

And thank you dwarves.

The dwarves nod to each other.

BOGMINER

Tie 'em up, eh?

Stonemarsh approaches with a rope.

EXT. SWAMP DWARF VILLAGE - DAY

The dwarves lead the way, our heroes behind, hands tied. They pass more DWARF WARRIORS on war frogs. These guys really are intimidating. Not to be effed with. Still...

One frog ribbits and gives Darryn a big, wet LICK as he walks by. The dwarves laugh.

DWARF WARRIOR

I think she likes you, mate.

The village itself is real bayou, voodoo tribal. Burning fires. Wooden bridges. Small skiff boats sail slowly along.

DARRYN

All those books and you don't know to keep your mouth shut in front of a Swamp Dwarf.

AMARISA

At least we're closer to getting The Sword. What do you care anyway?

DARRYN

Because they're insane. Anything you say, they take as a challenge.

Bogminer turns back. They quiet down, and he turns around.

JYNNY

The original Swamp Dwarves were exiled by the Mountain Dwarves. No one knows why exactly, but, since then, they've developed their own culture of... fearlessness.

A dwarfy scream from WAY above. Our crew looks up, as a dwarf plummets from the swamp's canopy. SPLASH! Into the water.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

It's their way of ensuring they're never driven out of their home again. They never back down from any challenge, no matter how small or trivial. Or stupid.

The dwarf emerges, still alive. Other dwarves cheer.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

When you told them about Darryn, you just laid down the biggest, stupidest challenge you could.

Just in front of them, a dwarf stands, back to a tree, with a fruit on his head. A second dwarf, blindfolded, holds an axe.

Blindfolded dwarf spins around, tosses the ax. THUNK! It misses the fruit and CUTS THE DWARF'S EAR OFF, just millimeters from his skull. EARLESS DWARF grabs his ear and laughs. The other dwarf removes his blindfold and curses.

EARLESS DWARF

Ha! I knew you couldn't do it!

AMARISA

Stupider than that?

And with that, they arrive in the

SWAMP DWARF VILLAGE - THRONE AREA

Swamp Dwarf chief, SKUNKBEARD (60 in human years), wild eyes, long, black and white beard, leans back in his swamp throne, all interlocking sticks and vines

Bogminer whispers something to him. He leans forward.

SKUNKBEARD

That right? You're Darryn the Bold, eh? The same Darryn who--

DARRYN

Yeah, that's me.

SKUNKBEARD

--slept with me mother and ran away  
screaming from me father?

Darryn thinks back.

DARRYN

Your mother was Mudbender?

SKUNKBEARD

Me auntie was Mudbender. Me mother  
was Mudchest.

DARRYN

Yes, that's right. Mudchest than  
Mudbender. Nope, that wasn't me.

Just when Jynny thought Darryn couldn't surprise her again...

JYNNY

When did you sleep with his mother?  
And his aunt?

DARRYN

Last time I was here, which was--

JYNNY

Right before you proposed to me.  
Why would you do that?

DARRYN

I didn't think I was gonna be back.

JYNNY

That's not-- Never mind.

Amarisa steps forward.

AMARISA

Chief Skunkbeard, please. We've  
come for the Sword of Boldness.  
Without it, The Hammer will--

SKUNKBEARD

That's all, eh? Just the SOB? You  
outsiders - always think you can  
just run all over us, don't ya?

The dwarves grumble in agreement.

AMARISA

Please. The Hammer, she will--

SKUNKBEARD

Ya pushed us out of the mountains,  
and now you think you can push us  
out of the swamps!

AMARISA

No. We just want to--

The dwarves grow louder. Skunkbeard leaps to his feet.

SKUNKBEARD

Well, not today, outsiders! Not  
today! I hereby sentence you to--

Jynny closes her eyes and quietly says...

JYNNY

Paceran.

Everything - Skunkbeard. The dwarves. Even the swamp animals -  
goes quiet. Darryn grits his teeth.

DARRYN

Oh, Jynny. What did you do?

Skunkbeard locks his wild eyes on Jynny.

SKUNKBEARD

What did you say?

But Jynny doesn't back down.

JYNNY

I said, Paceran. For The Sword.

Skunkbeard strokes his beard.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

That's what Swamp Dwarves live for,  
isn't it? Paceran, a chance to  
prove your bravery.

Skunkbeard looks at Jynny, the slightest hint of respect.

SKUNKBEARD

The Beast of the Swamp has The  
Sword. Not us.

JYNNY

If I didn't know any better, I'd  
say that Chief Skunkbeard of the  
fearless Swamp Dwarves is afraid.

DARRYN

No, Jynny. No no no. I don't think that's at all what he was saying. That's not what I got. Is that--

SKUNKBEARD

Are you calling me a coward, woman?

Skunkbeard and Jynny lock eyes.

JYNNY

All I'm saying is that Darryn here has issued Paceran, and it sounds like you're backing down.

Low murmurings from the dwarves, eyes turn to Skunkbeard.

DARRYN

I just want to jump in here and help clarify. That is not what--

Jynny and Skunkbeard continue their epic stare down, until Skunk's eyes light up.

SKUNKBEARD

Paceran. I accept.

Drums start back up. Dwarves cheer. It's a Paceran!

EXT. SWAMP DWARF VILLAGE - CELL - NIGHT

War drums play as dwarves prepare for the challenge.

Our crew sits in a wooden cell, while Bogminer stands guard. Darryn bangs his head against the bars.

DARRYN

Paceran! Really? Just a stupid betting game you said! Between two idiots you said!

JYNNY

It is! But now we know where The Sword is, and we can go get it.

DARRYN

We're not doing anything. I'm the one doing it.

He faces Amarisa.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

And you! First, you lie to me. Then you go bragging about how awesome I am.

AMARISA

But you love to brag about awesome you are. That's literally your favorite hobby.

DARRYN

Not to Swamp Dwarves! They're crazy! And they'll do anything to prove it!

AMARISA

Darryn, this is an adventure. This is what you do. Everything I read--

DARRYN

Help people for free? Get mixed up on the wrong side of a revolution? No. That is not what I do. What I do is drink heavily. What I do is spend what little money I do have on unattractive women. And charity and lost causes don't pay for that.

AMARISA

Then why are you even here?

DARRYN

Because you guilt-tripped me with the whole daughter story.

AMARISA

I what?!

DARRYN

And then you manipulated me by telling me I was the greatest hero of all time!

AMARISA

I never said that. Ever!

DARRYN

Before I met you, I was good. But since you've come along, I've been beaten up. Frozen. Nearly drowned by a sexy desert woman! Ok, that part wasn't so bad.

JYNNY

Save your breath, girl. I told you:  
Darryn only cares about Darryn.

Amarisa gives it right back to Darryn.

AMARISA

You said you were good at two  
things: Finding swords, killing bad  
guys, and kicking ass.

DARRYN

I am good at those things!

AMARISA

They why won't you do them?

DARRYN

Because I'm not good at them  
anymore!

Darryn, surprised, that he actually said that. He sighs.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

I can't do it.

Darryn sulks on his side of the cell.

AMARISA

Do you know why I picked you?

DARRYN

Yes. I get it, ok? No one else  
would do it.

AMARISA

Yes. You know why no one else would  
do it? Because The Hammer is mean  
and big, and she's terrifying. Her  
whole rep is built on the fact that  
she beat you. I know I haven't been  
on a thousand quests, and all I do  
is read books, but even I know  
this: Every knight and mercenary  
and farm boy wishes he could be  
Darryn the Bold.

They lock eyes.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

You know what else I know? That  
woman over there?

(MORE)

AMARISA (CONT'D)

She isn't here because of your great body or that big pile of gold you've got back at your castle. She's here in this miserable swamp because, for some reason, she still believes in you.

Jynny neither confirms nor denies this.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

And so do I because... I've read all of your stories and you're my father and it has to be you.

Amarisa tries to hold back tears. Darryn speaks sincerely.

DARRYN

You're too late. I'm not that guy from the books anymore. The Hammer, she kicked my ass. She killed King Rawlin. She destroyed the kingdom. My job was to stop her, and I failed. You. Jynny. Garryn. You were all right. I'm just a drunk loser. Everyone knows it.

AMARISA

Phelonicles wrote, "Only when one ceases to persist in his endeavors, does failure materialize."

DARRYN

What?

JYNNY

You only fail when you stop trying.

AMARISA

You lost, but that doesn't make you a loser. And it doesn't matter that Garryn said you're a loser. Or the drunks at the bar said you're a loser. Or I said you're a loser or that Jynny said you're a--

DARRYN

I think I got it.

AMARISA

The point is, it only matters what you think about yourself. Right here. Right now.

Bogminer opens the door.



BOGMINER

Oy! Fatman. It's time.

Darryn looks to Amarisa, holds his head a little higher.

DARRYN

Ok.

Darryn, about to exit the cell, stops, turns to Jynny.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Jynny, I need to ask you something.  
Something that I should have had  
the guts to ask years ago.

She crosses her arms and stares at him. What now?

DARRYN (CONT'D)

If things had been different... If  
I hadn't been such an idiot, do you  
think we could have...

JYNNY

What, Darryn?

He sighs, heavy. Here goes.

DARRYN

Do you think you could've ever  
gotten into a threeway with me and  
the Thonyzian cat woman?

Darryn is serious. Jynny shouldn't be surprised, but she is.

JYNNY

Darryn. Focus on The Sword.

DARRYN

Right. Got it.

Bogminer escorts him out of the cell.

BOGMINER

She didn't say no, did she, mate?

EXT. SWAMP - SWAMP POOL - NIGHT

The drums beat louder. The fires burn hotter. The energy is palpable. Everything is cranked to eleven, except for...

The DARK LAKE, a pitch black body of water. Motionless.

A DWARF PRIESTESS stands in front of the lake. And, in front of her the two challengers: Skunkbeard, strong, feral, covered in tribal painting. And Darryn, who is -well- Darryn, but with a new type of confidence. The priestess shouts.

DWARF PRIESTESS

Oy! Here's the deal: The Chief and the Fatman'll dive into the Dark Lake. One of 'em will come back with The Sword. The other? Better not come back, amirite?

Dwarves cheer. Amarisa and Jynny look just slightly worried.

AMARISA

Do you think this was a bad idea?

JYNNY

This could have been a bad idea.

Ok, maybe more than slightly. Back to the front of the lake.

DWARF PRIESTESS

Chief. Is you ready?

SKUNKBEARD

Oy!

DWARF PRIESTESS

Fatman. Is you ready?

Darryn ignores the slight, smiles, and nods his head.

DWARF PRIESTESS (CONT'D)

Go!

Skunkbeard runs, dives into the lake. Darryn follows him.

DARRYN

Ok, D. These are the two things you're good at.

He counts on his fingers. One.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Finding swords...

Two.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Killing bad guys and...

Three?

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
Kicking ass. Hey!

Darryn smiles again.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
Time to get serious.

He dives into the swamp.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
Oh my gods, that's cold!

EXT. LAKE (UNDERWATER) - NIGHT

Skunkbeard disappears into the darkness. Darryn follows.

AMARISA (V.O.)  
What are they doing down there?

JYNNY (V.O.)  
First, they'll swim through the  
Dark Lake in pitch blackness.

Luminescent fish swim by, giving faint glimpses of Darryn.

JYNNY (V.O.)  
If they make it through the dark  
and the cold, they say the Dark  
Lake becomes a clear blue at its  
lower levels. Beautiful.

Darryn swims on and the blackness suddenly gives way to an

UNDERWATER TRENCH

The water here is a CRYSTAL-CLEAR RAINBOW OF COLORS. Neon  
sponges glow. Literal SEA-HORSES swim merrily about.

JYNNY (V.O.)  
Home to amazing and terrible  
creatures.

Darryn is temporarily transfixed by a group of psychedelic  
swamp-vines that helix around each other - only to LASH OUT  
AND GRAB HIS NECK! He struggles before cutting them away.

Darryn moves on as more fantastical creatures dart around.

ON THE SWAMP FLOOR - Skunkbeard. He stands on the edge of a  
deep, black hole. Darryn swims down, stands opposite of him.

JYNNY (V.O.)  
And that's only half way.

Skunkbeard smiles, dives into the hole. Darryn follows.

INT. UNDERGROUND CAVE - NIGHT

A dank cave, long forgotten, with a tiny pond on one edge. Quiet. Still. Until Darryn's head pops out of the water. He coughs and sputters, desperately taking in air.

DARRYN  
Gods, that's far.

Up ahead, Darryn watches Skunkbeard sprint into the darkness.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
Really?

Darryn chases after.

INT. UNDERGROUND CAVE - MONSTER'S LAIR - NIGHT

Darryn enters to see Skunkbeard staring into the distance, as if he's trying to understand how the cave walls have disappeared. On the edges, nothing but a dense fog.

The floor itself extends into the distance, growing thinner and thinner, until it disappears into... nothing.

DARRYN  
Huh. This is new. Usually dragons like treasure.

SKUNKBEARD  
What?

DARRYN  
Swords. Dragons. Treasure. That's usually how this works.

SKUNKBEARD  
Who said anything about a dragon?

Darryn points to his head.

DARRYN  
Experience.

They walk the narrowing path.

SKUNKBEARD

Aye, you've never had no experience  
like this beast. His name is  
Mardin, and he can see things.  
Things you don't want seen.

DARRYN

How about this? You just point me  
at Mardin, and I'll get The Sword.

A cold fog circles around the two men.

SKUNKBEARD

Point you at him? He's everywhere.

A deep voice calls from the darkness, deep and full of  
reverb. This is MARDIN.

MARDIN

The dwarf speaks true human. There  
is no place that we cannot touch.  
Nothing we cannot see.

Darryn is in full-on arrogant Darryn quest mode.

DARRYN

Ooh! Scary! I don't mean to blow  
your mind, beast, but you're not  
the first monster I've fought. I've  
taken on demon bears, krakens,  
giants, large bugs, trolls,  
shamans, angry teenagers...

As Darryn lists monsters, the path continues to grow thinner  
until it becomes nothing more than a tiny dot. On the dot,  
the fog gathers and Mardin takes the shape of a LARGE TWO-  
HEADED SMOKE DRAGON. Darryn and Skunkbeard stop.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

...which is not as easy as-- Oh!  
See? I told you - dragon.

Mardin sits on the dot, his two heads coiling around each  
other, again and again, until they disappear into smoke.

MARDIN HEAD 1

This one is very arrogant. Is that  
to accent your bravery?

MARDIN HEAD 2

Or hide your foolishness?

Skunkbeard stares at Darryn. Darryn shrugs.

EXT. SWAMP DWARF VILLAGE - NIGHT

Jynny, Amarisa, and the rest of the village stand, waiting.

AMARISA

Hey, Jynny, if no one's ever  
returned from the beast's lair, how  
do you know all of that stuff?

JYNNY

Oh, that's because-- Look!

Swamp Dwarves scream, as they're launched from the bush,  
quite dead. The Hammer, Kala, and their army emerge.

All eyes on The Hammer. Big. Fearsome. Truly awesome. She  
stares down Amarisa.

THE HAMMER

You've certainly led us far, girl.  
Now, tell me: Where is The Sword?

INT. UNDERGROUND CAVE - MARDIN'S LAIR - NIGHT

Mardin's two-headed dragon form dissipates as he speaks.

MARDIN HEAD 1

The Sword of Boldness is not for  
the timid.

As Mardin disappears, the dot of a pathway becomes a GATE.  
Behind the gate, a plain-looking SWORD stuck in the earth.

MARDIN HEAD 2

Nor is it for the fearful.

Darryn and Skunkbeard approach the gate. There's no way  
through. The Sword is right there, just beyond their grasp.

Mardin reforms into his two-headed dragon shape and the two  
heads coil around Skunkbeard, as if looking into his soul.

MARDIN HEAD 1

This one leads a group of fearless  
warriors.

MARDIN HEAD 2

Yet, I sense much fear in him.

The heads disappear and reform.

MARDIN HEAD 1

Why do you seek The Sword, dwarf?

SKUNKBEARD  
Because he challenged me.

Mardin's heads stare at Skunkbeard with contempt.

MARDIN HEAD 1  
Your answer is true...

MARDIN HEAD 2  
...but weak.

MARDIN HEAD 1  
And The Sword is not...

MARDIN HEAD 2  
...for the weak.

The heads dematerialize again, reform in front of Darryn.

MARDIN HEAD 1  
This one, they call "bold."

MARDIN HEAD 2  
Yet, I sense even more fear in him.  
A much deeper fear.

Darryn straightens himself before the swirling dragon.

MARDIN HEAD 1  
Tell us, bold man, why do you seek  
The Sword?

DARRYN  
To stop The Hammer.

Head One exhales into Darryn's face, giving way to Head Two.

MARDIN HEAD 2  
Your answer is better...

MARDIN HEAD 1  
...but not much.

DARRYN  
Could you maybe stop with the  
moving and the changing? It's--

MARDIN HEAD 1  
Let us see if you are truly bold.  
Are you willing to face...

MARDIN HEAD 2  
...your worst fear?

The two Mardin heads seem to almost lick their chops, waiting for his response. As if they know it before he does.

DARRYN

I've seen my worst fear. I'm ready.

MARDIN HEAD 1

Are you?

The two heads slither around each other, more and more eyes forming, until each head is made up ENTIRELY OF EYES.

MARDIN HEAD 2

We shall see.

The eyes completely wrap around Darryn, swallowing him in a vortex of fog and smoke. Darryn shields his eyes.

DARRYN

Hey! What the! What are you--

Blackness.

PRE-LAP: Clinking glasses. Laughter. Raucous music.

INT. MARDIN'S TAVERN - NIGHT

Out of the blackness, a tavern forms. It's medieval spring break - Bro-Knights party. Dwarves do keg stands. Scantly clad maidens drink. In the middle of it all - Darryn.

TAVERN CROWD

Drink! Drink! Drink!

He nearly chokes on the two huge mugs of beer he is chugging SIMULTANEOUSLY. But he quickly recovers and downs them both. The crowd goes wild! He slams the mugs down.

TAVERN CROWD (CONT'D)

Darryn! Darryn! Darryn!

DARRYN

Where am I?

But he has no time to think. To his left, a GROUPIE with huge...personality...grabs him and gives him a sloppy kiss. A similarly endowed GROUPIE on his right does the same.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Uh, ok.

Darryn looks down at himself. He's fit, strong, armor dented in a cool heroic way. He's the Darryn from our intro.



DARRYN (CONT'D)  
 What the? Yes. This could work.

Across the bar - a familiar dwarf does a keg stand.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
 Skunkbeard?

SKUNKBEARD  
 Oy! Darryn! This is great!

Here, Darryn is THE MAN. Everyone wants to talk to him.

BRO-KNIGHT 1  
 Darryn! You're the man.

BRO-KNIGHT 2  
 Darryn! You're awesome.

One of these random bro-knights is TURK THE DESTROYER (whom we met briefly when Amarisa was looking for help).

TURK THE DESTROYER  
 Darryn! I wish I was you!

Darryn smiles ear-to-ear.

DARRYN  
 But you're not, Turk! Suck it!

Even Garryn is there.

GARRYN  
 Son, I was wrong. You're not a loser. You're the greatest hero of all time. I just put you down because I feel bad about myself, and I'm jealous of how awesome you are. Please let this apology be the validation from me that you need to truly live your most awesome life.

Darryn claps him on the shoulder.

DARRYN  
 Dad, that's a strangely specific apology. And I accept.

Darryn smiles.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
 Now get the hell outta here!

Garryn walks out. The Groupies press up against Darryn.

GROUPIE 1  
Show us The Sword of Boldness!

GROUPIE 2  
Ooh! The Sword of Boldness!

DARRYN  
But I don't have...

He looks to his hip. There it is. RIGHT THERE!

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
The Sword of Boldness.

Darryn is shocked. Stunned. Stupefied even.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
I did it. I did it! I DID IT! I'm  
Darryn the Bold...

He takes The Sword out and points it to the sky in a sweet,  
heroic power stance.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
And The Sword of Boldness!

The crowd goes ballistic! Bro-Knights do shots. Groupies chug  
beer. Darryn dances with excitement. It's fantasy gone wild!

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
This is my worst fear? This?  
Stupid dragon! This is awesome!

But then, as Darryn dances like a fool, he suddenly stops.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
But I also feel like something's  
missing. I feel - empty.

Then, he notices something out the corner of his eye, just as  
Garryn leaves through the tavern door. The door stays open  
and, through a hazy fog, Darryn can just make out the

SWAMP DWARF VILLAGE

Where The Hammer smashes dwarf after dwarf. The volume on the  
party goes down as Darryn tries to understand.

Someone shoves a beer in Darryn's face, and we're

BACK TO THE TAVERN

The volume on the crowd quickly comes back up. Darryn downs  
the beer, but in a serious fashion.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
Everyone! Everyone, just stop!

The crowd gets quiet, lowers Skunkbeard from his keg stand.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
I think there was something else  
that I was supposed to do.

Darryn looks to Skunkbeard.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
Another reason why we're here.

Skunkbeard shrugs. The partiers get serious for a moment.

GROUPIE 1  
You know, I think there is another  
reason why you're here.

GROUPIE 2  
There is something you're supposed  
to do. And that something is...

The party goes bananas again!

TAVERN CROWD  
Drink! Drink! Drink!

Darryn takes another beer and downs it, He tries to enjoy the party, but his eyes are drawn back through the door into the

SWAMP DWARF VILLAGE

Where dwarves fight The Hammer, but are knocked back. The Hammer swats Jynny away. Amarisa charges The Hammer, but The Hammer easily grabs her and LIFTS HER INTO THE AIR.

BACK IN THE TAVERN

DARRYN  
No.

Darryn heads for the door; a groupie steps in front of him.

GROUPIE 1  
Where are you going?

DARRYN  
The Hammer has Amarisa.

GROUPIE 1  
And you have everything you've ever  
wanted. Fame. Respect.  
(MORE)

GROUPIE 1 (CONT'D)  
 Endless supply of alcohol. Even The  
 Sword of Boldness. You always  
 wanted The Sword; you never wanted  
 a daughter.

Darryn looks to the groupie; back out to the Village.

DARRYN  
 Gods! I wish this stupid sword  
 didn't even exist. I wish I'd kept  
 my pants on for once in my life,  
 and this never would have happened  
 to her. So stupid!

She presses herself up against him and hands him a beer.

GROUPIE 1  
 If you go, you'll lose all of this,  
 and The Hammer will kill you.

DARRYN  
 But, if I stay here, she'll kill  
 Amarisa.

GROUPIE 1  
 Forget about that. Just stay here.  
 There's nothing to fear here.

What did she just say? Darryn remembers...

MARDIN HEAD 1 (V.O.)  
 Let us see if you are truly bold  
 Are you ready to face...

DARRYN  
 ...your worst fear.

Darryn looks at The Sword, then the Groupie.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
 You're right: The Hammer beat me  
 before, and she might kill me now.  
 And that scares the shit out of me.  
 But I've been afraid my whole life.  
 Afraid that without a fantastic  
 sword or some awesome story that I  
 was no one. And I'm sick of it.

GROUPIE 1  
 Then, why worry about all of that?  
 Just stay here where you have it  
 all. Where you're comfortable.

DARRYN

Because this isn't real. You're not real. Beer. Parties. Swords...

He throws The Sword down.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

None of this is real. What's out there is real.

He pushes his way through the crowd.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

C'mon, SB. Let's go.

Skunkbeard turns to the partiers and shrugs.

GROUPIE 1

Darryn, this is your last chance. If you leave, you can't come back.

Darryn stops and looks back.

DARRYN

I don't want to come back. Ever.

He walks out the door and...

EXT. SWAMP DWARF VILLAGE - DAY

Darryn crawls on hands and knees out of the Dark Lake. He spits out water, as a battle rages around him.

Jynny sprints to Darryn, helps him to his feet.

JYNNY

Darryn! You're back.

DARRYN

Where's Amarisa?

JYNNY

There.

Jynny directs him to Amarisa, who's holding her own against some of The Hammer's soldiers. She's gotten good.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

You did it.

There! On Darryn's hip - THE SWORD OF BOLDNESS. Darryn takes out The Sword. It's still pretty plain looking.

DARRYN

No. I haven't done anything yet.

To his left, Darryn sees a few Swamp Dwarves carrying Skunkbeard out of the Lake. He coughs up dirty swamp water.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

We've got to stop The Hammer.

JYNNY

Darryn, wait. I want you to know...

DARRYN

Yes?

JYNNY

I'd never do a threeway with you and the Thonyzian cat lady.

Darryn smiles.

DARRYN

I know.

He thrust The Sword into the air.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Let's go!

They all jump into the fray and the battle IS ON! Jynny gracefully slices her way through The Hammer's soldiers. Skunkbeard insanely plows through the enemy. And Darryn hacks with The Sword like a real hero.

And Amarisa? She skillfully cuts down the bad guys. Darryn finds himself next to her in the fight.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Hey! You're looking pretty good.

AMARISA

Thanks! You were right: Fighting's in my blood. Plus, while you were drinking, I read Deveaux's *Rules for Duels and Swordfighting*.

DARRYN

I don't even know what that is.

Darryn continues to swing and slash through enemy soldiers. He fights like a man with a purpose - which he is.

Meanwhile, Jynny -with her sword- finds herself paired up with Kala, a dagger in each hand. Kala smiles, menacingly.

KALA  
Princess Jynevieve. It is still  
princess, right?

The two women circle each other like cats, waiting to pounce.

KALA (CONT'D)  
First, I took your man.

JYNNY  
Believe me, you were not the first.

KALA  
Now, I'm gonna take your head.

JYNNY  
Come and get it.

Kala leaps forward, and the two women fight in a beautiful ballet of blood and -oh, who are we kidding? They just go at it! Swords! Daggers! Teeth! Feet! It's brutal.

Both women are bloodied, but, in the end, Kala's no match for Jynny. Jynny runs her sword STRAIGHT THROUGH KALA'S GUT. Blood gurgles from Kala's mouth.

JYNNY (CONT'D)  
That's for saying you were gonna  
take my head.

Jynny twists the sword deeper.

JYNNY (CONT'D)  
And that's for my father.

And finally, she twists it one more time.

JYNNY (CONT'D)  
And that's just because I don't  
like you.

Jynny - total badass action hero moment. Kala - dead.

Elsewhere in the battle, The Hammer and Darryn smash and slash until they're face-to-face. One more time.

Darryn stands proud. Strong. Has he lost weight?

DARRYN  
Hammer! You look different. New  
armor? No. New haircut? No, that's  
not it. Oh I know! You shaved.

The Hammer spins her hammer in her hand, never backing down.

THE HAMMER

Last time I went easy on you. Now,  
I'm just gonna smash your head in.

Darryn smiles, unafraid.

DARRYN

Time to get serious.

Darryn CHARGES, Sword of Boldness raised high! And, this is what we've been waiting for. Finally, we see some real DTB - confident. Cocky. Slightly stupid. But all in an awesome way.

And The Hammer - she looks human for the first time. The Sword cuts through her armor and it HURTS her.

She gives as good as she gets though. Her hammer hits Darryn and he slides back through the swamp mud. Darryn climbs to his feet and slices, knocking The Hammer back.

Darryn fights bravely. Valiantly. Boldly. The Hammer is bruised and bloodied.

BUT THE HAMMER WILL NOT STOP.

Darryn's still just a half-a-tick slower than The Hammer. Even with the SOB, he still seems to be outmatched. The Sword is just not cutting it (so to speak).

THE HAMMER

You think I beat you before because  
of my sister's poison? I beat you  
because I'm better than you.

She smashes Darryn's armor.

THE HAMMER (CONT'D)

And that was in your prime. Do you  
really think you can stop me now?

Darryn slashes her with The SOB, then points to The Sword.

DARRYN

Yeah, I do. Sword of Boldness.  
Greatest sword ever created.

Darryn SWINGS -one mighty final awesome swing with all he's got - and The Hammer dodges at the last second!

She swings with her hammer and LAUNCHES Darryn through the air, The Sword flying from his hand. Amarisa sees it all.

AMARISA

No!



The Sword bounces to her feet.

Darryn lands flat on his back, desperately gasping for air. Tries to get to his feet. Can't. Can't even move.

The Hammer places her ginormous boot on his chest. Heavy.

THE HAMMER

You fool. You can't beat me. You still have fear in your heart.

She presses down on Darryn's chest. He squirms and wheezes, but there's no escape.

DARRYN

But I did what he said. I faced...

The Hammer presses down on Darryn's chest.

THE HAMMER

Your worst fear? Me? I'm honored.

AMARISA

Hammer! Stop!

Amarisa takes a step forward. Wants to reach for The Sword, but hesitates. Stops. Afraid.

THE HAMMER

You're strong, girl. Stronger than this idiot. Join us, and you'll never fear anything ever again.

Darryn looks to Amarisa, back to The Hammer.

DARRYN

No.

The Hammer presses harder on Darryn, speaks to Amarisa.

THE HAMMER

Give me The Sword.

Darryn nearly chokes on his blood, spits it out.

DARRYN

I admit it, Hammer. You're not my worst fear. My worst fear is not being good enough. A good enough hero. A good enough man. A good enough father. I tried to run from it.

(MORE)

DARRYN (CONT'D)

But swords and women and parties -  
that stuff doesn't matter. What  
matters is purpose. Love. What  
matters is family.

The Hammer looks down, presses even harder on Darryn's chest.

THE HAMMER

And I thought you were pathetic the  
first time we met.

DARRYN

I'm not good enough to beat you.  
But I know someone who is.

He looks to Amarisa.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

She was right - You're stronger  
than me. Take The Sword.

AMARISA

But I-- I'm afraid. I can't--

DARRYN

Amarisa. I'm your father, and I  
said - take The Sword.

Darryn smiles through broken teeth, as Amarisa pick up The  
Sword, and it GLOWS! It glows with unearthly magical power!

The Hammer removes her boot from Darryn's chest.

THE HAMMER

You're such a coward that you'd  
have your daughter fight your  
battle for you?

The Hammer eyes The Sword as she approaches Amarisa. Is that  
the slightest hint of hesitation in her (The Hammer's) eyes?

THE HAMMER (CONT'D)

I won't ask again - give me The  
Sword.

Darryn crawls to his side.

DARRYN

Amarisa. You got this.

Amarisa holds The Sword at the ready. The Hammer smirks.

AMARISA

Leave my dad alone, you bitch.

THE HAMMER

You got more guts than most. It's almost a shame I have to kill you.

The Hammer swings her mighty hammer and - it's as if Amarisa can see the swing coming. She moves and The Hammer MISSES!

AMARISA

Whoa. That was cool.

The Sword's unearthly glow illuminates the swamp and Amarisa swings and CUTS The Hammer!

The Hammer swings again! But she can't touch Amarisa. Amarisa slices with The Sword and The Hammer falls to her knees, bloodied and broken. Darryn limps forward.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

This is where your evil ends.

THE HAMMER

You call me evil? But side with him? A drunk who wasted his talent. A liar, unfaithful to his woman. A coward who denied his own child. He shouldn't even be here.

AMARISA

You're right. He was all those things, but he's not anymore. Now, he's my father.

Amarisa raises the SOB and a BLINDING WHITE LIGHT PULSATES IN ALL DIRECTIONS. She swings The Sword down, slicing through The Hammer's head and body.

The Hammer slumps to the ground. Dead.

ALL AROUND - The battle is over. The remaining soldiers surrender to the Swamp Dwarves. The village has been battered and destroyed, but they'll rebuild.

Darryn turns to Amarisa.

DARRYN

Hey, I know I wasn't your first choice, but I'm glad you picked me.

AMARISA

I'm glad I picked you too, dad.

They hug, warmly, until...

SKUNKBEARD (O.S.)

Oy! Fatman!

A couple of Swamp Dwarves carry a wounded Skunkbeard.

SKUNKBEARD (CONT'D)

One more Paceran. To see who cleans  
this mess up.

DARRYN

Hell, no, Skunkbeard.

They laugh and share a moment of respect.

Jynny limps over. Beaten up pretty good, but she'll live.

JYNNY

You did it. You beat The Hammer.

DARRYN

No. I didn't. It took a real hero  
to do that.

Amarisa smiles proudly. Jynny is impressed.

JYNNY

Nice!

Skunkbeard and the dwarves all gather around.

SKUNKBEARD

Let's hear it for Amarisa!

EVERYONE

Amarisa! Amarisa! Amarisa!

Darryn smiles a huge, proud, fatherly smile at Amarisa. And she smiles a huge, proud, daughterly smile. And we...

FADE TO BLACK

SUPER: ONE YEAR LATER

INT. YET ANOTHER TAVERN - DAY

Another seedy tavern. Very much like the one where Amarisa met Darryn at the start of this adventure.

In the corner - An assortment of DRUNKS, including one old, toothless drunk named PYN THE DRUNK, a ghostly RYN THE DRUNK, and DARRYN, downing beer after beer.

DARRYN

Did I ever tell you...

DRUNKS

Yes!

DARRYN

...about how my daughter used the Golden Katana of Itoh to defeat the Shadow Assassins?

FLASHBACK - EXT. RICE FIELD - NIGHT

A full moon illuminates a Japanese-style rice field. Amarisa stands, clad all in black. Evil ninja shapes form out of the shadows and draw their weapons.

Amarisa takes her sword -a beautiful golden blade- and lets out her war cry as she leaps at the bad guys!

And we shift to...

FLASHBACK - INT. CAVE - DAY

A huge cave, maybe a mile high. Maybe more. Carved into the side: A mighty STONE GOLEM. With his stone beard, crown, and club, he's like a stony Nordic king. This is OLVIR.

DARRYN (V.O.)

But she doesn't just find swords!

Below the golem, on a stone pedestal, a fat BOOK, full of dusty pages. In front of the book - Amarisa.

AMARISA

...Ancient curse... yadayada... Do not enter... blahblahblah... Anyone who reads this will unleash the wrath of Olvir the Stone King. Wait. What?

She stops.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

That can't be how it works. Why would anyone put that in the book?

The cave RUMBLES as Olvir comes to life and roars at Amarisa!

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Oh, boy.

Amarisa grabs the book and RUNS! Olvir's mighty club, just missing her.

DARRYN (V.O.)  
 She also stole the Book of Thunder  
 from Olvir the Stone King!

And we're...

BACK TO THE BAR

Darryn takes a drink, huge, proud smile on his face.

DARRYN  
 Or how about--

PYN THE DRUNK  
 Darryn, we know you're proud, but  
 can we please drink in silence?

JYNNY (O.S.)  
 Hey!

Standing at the bar, Jynny. She's upgraded her rebel garb to something a little more official, a little more warrior-queenly. She throws back a drink.

JYNNY (CONT'D)  
 Tell them how she made a man out of  
 the Boy King of Riverhelm.

Darryn SPITS his drink out on Pyn.

DARRYN  
 What?! She never said--

Jynny walks toward Darryn, smiles.

JYNNY  
 Relax. I'm just messing with you...  
 Probably.

Darryn shakes his head. He deserves that.

JYNNY (CONT'D)  
 It's good to see you proud of her.  
 She's a strong young woman.

Darryn smiles at her.

DARRYN  
 Thanks, Jynny.

JYNNY  
 I gotta go help the Frog Riders  
 settle a bet.

She walks toward the door.

DARRYN

Hey, if you're free later, maybe we could--

JYNNY

Not a chance.

DARRYN

Ok.

As Jynny walks out, Amarisa runs in, excited.

AMARISA

Dad! Dad!

She runs up to the table.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Hey, drunks.

DRUNKS

Hey.

She tosses a MAP down on the table.

AMARISA

I know where it is! The greatest book ever created. The Magic Scroll of Epicness!

Darryn smiles, the way dads do when they're happy, but have no idea what their kid is talking about.

DARRYN

That's great! I have no idea what that is!

AMARISA

The most magical book ever written.

Darryn follows the map with his finger.

DARRYN

All the way in...

AMARISA

Yeah, it's far. Do you think I can find it?

For just a second, he turns on a hint of that old Darryn.

DARRYN  
No, I don't think you can.

Amarisa, a little surprised, a little confused.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
I know you can.

She smiles proudly, throws the map in her backpack.

AMARISA  
Come with me, Dad. One more quest.  
For old time's sake.

Darryn laughs and shakes his head.

DARRYN  
Not me. I'm retired. It's time for  
a new greatest hero ever.

AMARISA  
Well...

She holds out her fist for bumping.

AMARISA (CONT'D)  
...at least tell me you know what  
time it is.

Darryn meets his fist with her fist. There is much bumping of  
fists.

DARRYN & AMARISA  
Time to get serious!

THE END.