

DARRYN THE BOLD
AND THE SWORD OF BOLDNESS

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INT. MEDIEVAL LIBRARY

An ancient, leather-bound book entitled *Darryn the Bold and the Sword of Boldness* sits on a table and magically opens to a drawing of an EPIC FANTASY SWORD.

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.)

Once, long ago, in a time
unrecorded in the books of history
- I mean, other than this book of
history. Anyway. Once, long ago, it
was the darkest time of men.

The drawing morphs into a real-life sword. AN EPIC FANTASY KNIGHT grabs it and we're...

EXT. CLIFFS OF HELL

The knight, armor gleaming, valiantly faces off with TIAMON, a demon with long claws, huge, spike-like horns, and a skull for a face. Lava flows all around them.

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.)

Demons roamed freely through the
land, destroying the bravest of
warriors. The king of these demons
was the Dark Father, Tiamon.

Our warrior charges Tiamon, who easily swats him away. The demon ROARS in victory, as lava splashes around him. Zoom in close on the lava as it becomes the flames of...

INT. EPIC FANTASY FORGE - NIGHT

A council of wizards - anthropomorphic animal wizards (bear, eagle, etc.), different human wizards, and one robed TIGER we'll come to know as DANCER - stand around a sword mold.

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.)

In an effort to stop Tiamon, the
kingdom's most powerful wizards
joined together to forge the
ultimate weapon.

Each wizard cuts his hand and pours a few drops of blood onto the mold, mixing their blood with steel. It starts to glow.

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The Sword of Boldness.

Zoom on the sword smelting in the forge and we're back to...

EXT. CLIFFS OF HELL

On the edge of the cliff, another POWERFUL WARRIOR faces down Tiamon. He holds THE SWORD OF BOLDNESS.

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.)
 With this weapon, the heroes of men
 defeated Tiamon and imprisoned him
 in the darkest realms of Hell.

The warrior strikes the demon with The Sword. Tiamon screams in pain! He grabs our hero and both tumble into the abyss.

Our hero drops The Sword and it teeters on the cliff's edge. Slowly, slowly, it slides into the darkness.

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Throughout time, the Sword of
 Boldness became little more than a
 legend. Used for good, it could
 keep Tiamon imprisoned forever.
 But, if it were ever to fall into
 the hands of evil, it could release
 the demon and-

Suddenly, a new voice interrupts.

DARRYN (V.O.)
 Boring! Skip to the good part.

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.)
 (normal voice)
 What? You can't just interrupt me.
 This is important backstory. They
 need to know that -

DARRYN (V.O.)
 Swords. Demons. They get it. This
 ain't called "The Sword of Boldness
 and Darryn." Let's go! Move it!

INT. LIBRARY

Back to the book and pages magically flip, zooming to...

A drawing of DARRYN THE BOLD (30s). Shiny plate armor. Sparkling teeth. Rugged jaw line. Definition of a hero.

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.)
 (normal voice)
 Ok. You're the boss.
 (Epic voice)
 (MORE)

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Thousands of years later, there
 arose a warrior so powerful that no
 man nor beast could defeat him.

As the narrator speaks, the drawing morphs into the real-life
 Darryn the Bold and we're...

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAWN

Epic fantasy music builds. SUPER SLOW MOTION as we track up
 on Darryn from his plate-mailed boots...

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.)
 So intelligent that the greatest
 scholars sought out his advice.

...to his armored legs...

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 So handsome that women swooned at
 the mere mention of his name.

...to his overly large groin...

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 So well-endowed that his peni-
 what? Oh come on!

Epic fantasy music record scratch. We stop on Darryn's groin.

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I'm not gonna read that.

DARRYN (V.O.)
 Just read it.

A third voice. Young. Female. This is AMARISA (14).

AMARISA (V.O.)
 You do know that absolutely none of
 what he just read is true right?

Still looking at Darryn's groin...

DARRYN (V.O.)
 You - be quiet. And you - just read
 what's on the paper.

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.)
 I'm not reading that! I am a
 professional fantasy-film narrator.
 Not some - some pervert!

DARRYN (V.O.)
 Hey, a lot of people paid good
 money to hear this awesome and
 totally true story, so read.

Still on Darryn's groin...

AMARISA (V.O.)
 (re: Darryn's groin)
 Could we, just, you know, move on
 from - this?

Camera starts to move from Darryn's groin...

DARRYN (V.O.)
 Stop! We're not ready.

Camera goes back to Darryn's groin...

EPIC FANTASY NARRATOR (V.O.)
 You're not taking this seriously,
 are you? This is high fantasy. I
 have been the narrator for many
 successful fantasy franchises! I
 read the narration for -

DARRYN (V.O.)
 Fine! Just give me the - gimme!

Still looking at Darryn's armored loins. Offscreen, papers
 rustling. Sounds of a small struggle. A door slams!

DARRYN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 You know what? I'm just gonna do it
 myself. How hard can it be?

AMARISA (V.O.)
 Oh my gods...

DARRYN (V.O.)
 Ok. Epic fantasy sword... Epic
 fantasy warrior... Demon....
 Yadayada... Here we go.

The music starts again, and we move on from Darryn's groin to
 his manly chest to that handsomely, rugged face.

DARRYN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 So I - uh, I mean - This guy was
 awesome. The definition of a hero.

Darryn swings a blood-covered broadsword, killing a bevy of
 HAMMER SOLDIERS - black-armored bad guys with skull helmets.

DARRYN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Darryn the Bold was known for two things: Finding swords, killing bad guys, and being totally bad ass.

Pause on Darryn looking totally BAD ASS.

SUPER: "DARRYN THE BOLD. BAD ASS WARRIOR KNIGHT."

AMARISA (V.O.)
 You know that's three things right?

DARRYN (V.O.)
 Just watch the movie, ok?

As Darryn narrates, we're suddenly in...

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Flames everywhere, as Darryn LEAPS through the fire and races toward a sword stuck deep in a tree.

DARRYN (V.O.)
 With the Talking Sword of Vik, he killed the evil Demon Bears of Garen's Well.

Darryn pulls THE TALKING SWORD OF VIK from the tree.

TALKING SWORD
 Finally! You do not know how long I've been stuck in there! Gods, its 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 (CONT'D)
 Please don't use me for slashing things! I'm not that kind of - agh!

Darryn leaps towards the bears! Offscreen, whimpering sounds, as bear-blood splatters on Darryn, and we move on to...

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.

These two eyes lumber 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, he killed the Bridge
 Troll of Cralix.

Darryn, shiny, magical knife in hand, runs at the troll!

We see Darryn's screaming war face and we shift to...

EXT. SKY - DAY

Darryn swings a magnificent blade as he soars through the air on the back of a Griffin, a part eagle/part lion/part horse creature. He jets straight toward...

A MONSTROUS RED DRAGON THAT BREATHES FIRE! They zoom past each other, until Darryn FLIES UPSIDE DOWN over the dragon and drops on its head.

DARRYN (V.O.)
 And, in his greatest adventure of
 all, he used the magical Elven
 Blade of Alderwood to slay the
 Great Red Dragon of Pondor!

He buries the blade deep in the dragons skull!

EXT. MEDIEVAL CITY - STREET - DAY

Thousands of people cheer as Darryn rides a mighty warhorse through a medieval-style ticker tape parade.

DARRYN (V.O.)
 The only thing that matched his
 bravery was his humility.

DARRYN
 Oh no. Please. Stop. You don't need
 to - Well, if you want to. Ok.

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

INT. CASTLE - GREAT HALL - NIGHT

It's the most rock 'n roll medieval party ever - food, drink, scantily clad medieval women, and at the center of it all? A very drunk Darryn. They all laugh and giggle until...

DARRYN (V.O.)
 Everyone loved him.

JYNNY (30s), stereotypical medieval princess appearance, but tougher than she looks. Pause on Jynny looking PISSED!

SUPER: "JYNNY. DARRYN'S GIRLFRIEND - IT'S COMPLICATED."

JYNNY
Darryn! What the -

DARRYN (V.O.)
Well, almost everyone.

A mug flies past Darryn's face, crashes against the wall. He runs from the room, and we go back to...

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

Pick up where we left off with a bad-ass Darryn, bloodied and muddied. He now stands face-to-face with...

Eight-feet of evil incarnate, covered head-to-toe in blood and evil and spike armor. This is THE HAMMER, probably named that because he carries a huge hammer in his hand.

DARRYN (V.O.)
Nothing could stop him. Until...

Steam emanates from the T-shaped slit in The Hammer's helmet. He removes the helmet and reveals that he is a SHE. THE HAMMER IS A WOMAN. A massive bald woman with piercings and spikes all through her face and head. Major daddy issues.

DARRYN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He met her.

SUPER: "THE HAMMER. EVIL INCARNATE."

THE HAMMER
Darryn The Bold. We meet at last.

DARRYN
(re: the face piercings)
I know all of this stuff, it seems cool now, but how 'bout when you're older, huh? Not so much.

Darryn and The Hammer charge at each other.

DARRYN (V.O.)
It was a fierce battle.

Darryn swings his sword again and again but misses each time. For such a large woman, The Hammer is surprisingly fast. Or is Darryn just a half-a-tick slower than usual?

The Hammer KICKS Darryn and he slides through the mud. She stands over him, raises her hammer high and - stop.

AMARISA (V.O.)
Until The Hammer smashed Darryn's
head in!

DARRYN (V.O.)
Hey! I'm telling the story here,
ok? And that's not how it goes.

EXT. CASTLE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Darryn lies in bed, post-coitus, with a MYSTERIOUS WOMAN. Long flowing hair. Piercing eyes. Huge...personality.

DARRYN
It must be pretty mind-blowing to
be here with Darryn The Bold, huh?

She rolls her eyes and reaches for a drink. Once the drink reaches her lips we zoom in close. Closer. POISON SALIVA BUBBLES move from her mouth to the glass.

MYSTERY WOMAN
Oh, yes! My simple little female
mind is blown. He-hee. Drink this.

She hands him the glass and he drinks. The poison bubbles move from the glass into his mouth as he swallows it down.

DARRYN
Did I tell you about the time that
I defeated the Orc tribes of Oolek?

With one hand, Mystery woman seductively pushes Darryn down on the bed. The other produces a KNIFE from under the sheets.

MYSTERY WOMAN
Oh no. Please! Tell me.

Darryn closes his eyes. Mystery Woman raises the knife high.

DARRYN
Well, first, let me just start by -

Suddenly - BOOM! JYNNY kicks in the bedroom door!

JYNNY
Darryn! You asshole!

Mystery Woman flashes an evil smile, covers herself, and runs away. As she escapes out a window, we go back to...

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

The Hammer swings her hammer down! Darryn rolls away at the last second.

<p>DARRYN (V.O.) In a wild twist that no one, not even Darryn with all of his humble, yet, infinite wisdom could have seen...</p>	<p>AMARISA (V.O.) Oh my gods...</p>
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DARRYN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...he was poisoned!

Darryn stumbles back to his feet. His eyes go blank and we
PUSH INTO DARRYN'S EYE

And zoom fast through his veins and arteries until we reach
HIS STOMACH

Where those POISON SALIVA BUBBLES spread out, taking over
Darryn's body. We reverse, back through Darryn's body and
PUSH OUT OF HIS EYE AND BACK TO THE BATTLE

Darryn shakes his head and his eyes go back to normal.

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

Too stupid to be afraid, Darryn kicks it up a notch. He and
The Hammer go back and forth. Finally, he breaks through her
defenses. The Hammer falls to her knees.

He holds his sword high above his head. She looks to him,
face all metal. She smiles.

DARRYN
You thought you had me, huh?

He swings the sword down and, just as it's about to connect,
the piercings burn an evil red.

CLANK! The sword **MELTS** over her head. Metal drips down,
burning itself into her face. The Hammer laughs.

THE HAMMER
Darryn the Bold - I thought you'd
be tougher.

Darryn's seen a lot of things, but...

The Hammer gets to her feet. Darryn charges, but she easily knocks him to the ground, places her big boot on his chest.

A horse rides up fast. A lean figure, face half hidden.

Flowing hair, piercing eyes, huge personality. OMG! It's the Mysterious Woman, except now she wears leather armor and a half-skull mask. From now on, we'll call her SKULL WOMAN.

Skull Woman jumps off her horse, removes her mask.

SKULL WOMAN

Hello, Darryn the Bold.

DARRYN

You! I thought we had something special.

THE HAMMER

You're nothing special, Darryn.

DARRYN'S POV.

The Hammer holds her hammer high and swings it down. Boom!

Blackness.

EXT. THE DEATH DIMENSION

A vast empty void somewhere between life and death.

CONTINUE DARRYN'S POV:

A flicker of light. Then darkness. Then a quick...

FLASH OF IMAGES: Darryn, The Hammer, an old man trains a young Darryn with a sword, younger versions of Darryn and Jynny walk together, Darryn fights a giant snake, Jynny walks in on Darryn in bed with a sexy cat-lady...

Out of all of this, a hooded figure takes shape. Under the hood, glowing, yellow cat's eyes. This is DANCER, a Rakshasa (aka tiger wizard) with a British Indian accent.

DANCER

Relax, Darryn The Bold.

END DARRYN'S POV.

Darryn drifts through the blackness. He's beat up, but whole. Tries to move, can't. Dancer drifts with him.

DARRYN
Where am I?

DANCER
A place between life and death.

DARRYN
Is that near Azmoor?

Dancer shakes his head. It's not as easy job, but...

DANCER
It is near all places. And far from
all places.

DARRYN
So... it won't take me long to get
home? Or it will?

DANCER
I am sending you back. Dark times
are upon us.

DARRYN
And you need my help?

Dancer waves his tigery paws together.

DANCER
You could say that.

DARRYN
What do you need me to kill? Did
you know that I slayed the -

DANCER
Shut up Darryn. I do not need you
to kill anything. I just need you
to be - you.

DARRYN
Sounds easy enough. Who are - aggh!

Dancer lays his hands on Darryn's chest and he screams in
pain. A BLINDING WHITE LIGHT dissolves into...

DARRYN (V.O.)
...And so begins our story.

EXT. MUDDY ROAD - NIGHT

Rain pours down. A small hooded figure slips and slides its way through the mud. Lightning crashes and we get our first glimpse of AMARISA (14).

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

She makes her way through the tavern where we see, from the back, a large warrior-type. Looks kinda like Darryn the Bold.

The warrior turns around and - it's not Darryn. Amarisa throws a few coins on the table. The warrior smiles and shakes his head no. She gathers up her money.

EXT. MUDDY ROAD - NIGHT

Back out in the rain, the hooded Amarisa walks with purpose.

INT. THE NEXT TAVERN - NIGHT

Another tough, scarred warrior. This one looks a little crazier. 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. Mousy. Coke-bottle glasses. Shakes his head no.

END MONTAGE

INT. TAVERN/INN - EARLY MORNING

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 cuts through the tavern to a lone table in the corner.

The table is littered with so many bottles and glasses that we can barely make see the three men passed out there.

Amarisa pushes a few bottles off the table. CRASH! The men don't move. She throws her coins down. PLINK! PLINK! One of the passed-out men looks up, revealing his face.

Allow me to reintroduce myself - It's DARRYN THE BOLD. Bloated, dirty, broken. The worst-of-the-worst, but worse.

AMARISA

Are you Darryn The Bold?

DARRYN

Maybe. Who's asking?

Amarisa pulls back her hood to reveal a young girl, 14 going on 40. Darryn stares at her blankly.

AMARISA

If you're really him, tell me something great you've done.

DARRYN

Last night, I drank thirteen shots of Dragon's Fire. They said it was impossible, but I did it. I did it!

He yells out to the other drunks. They ignore him.

AMARISA

Starnicus wrote that drunkenness is the shield of the coward.

DARRYN

You don't get out much do you?

AMARISA

I get out. I went all the way to Thornbell, once.

Darryn, not impressed, takes a drink.

DARRYN

Girl, what do you want? You're cutting into my drinking time.

AMARISA

My name isn't "girl". It's Amarisa Albright, and I want to hire you.

Darryn looks over the few coins, stuffs them in his pocket.

DARRYN

Why? Your kitten stuck in a tree?

AMARISA

The Hammer has taken my father, and
I need your help to get him back.

Darryn stares at her again, takes another shot.

DARRYN

What did you say?

AMARISA

I said The Hammer took -

DARRYN

Rhetorical question. Go away.

AMARISA

What? No. I -

DARRYN

I'm retired. Get someone else.

AMARISA

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

DARRYN

Is this how you make friends?

AMARISA

I've been out all night. In the
rain. I went to the best: Turk the
Destroyer, Polstan the Maniacal.

DARRYN

Turk is really not that great.

AMARISA

Even the not-so-best: William the
Able-Bodied. John the Try-Hard.
Steve the Average.

DARRYN

I don't know who those people are.

Amarisa sits down across from him.

AMARISA

Exactly. Now I'm here. With you.

Darryn puts her money back on the table.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Everything I've read said you were the best. What happened to you?

DARRYN

Uh, I got killed.

AMARISA

I know the story, but you've got a second chance and you spend it drinking? Don't most people come back all fired up? "I'm gonna live everyday like it's my last! I know the true meaning of life!"

DARRYN

I do know the true meaning of life: To stay alive. I got nothing else to prove. My reputation is respected from here to the ends of the world. Everyone knows who I am.

One of the other men at the table, RYN THE RAT DRUNK, a drunken anthropomorphic rat, raises his ratty head.

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

Hey Derek, hand me that drink.

DARRYN

Ryn, I've told you a hundred times: It's Darryn.

Darryn hands Ryn the drink. The rat burps.

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

Right. Thanks, Derek.

On the other side, KYN THE CAT DRUNK, raises his cat head.

KYN THE CAT DRUNK

You idiot. He just said his name isn't Derek. It's Karryn.

DARRYN

Not Derek. And not Karryn either. If you just combine those two -

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

So it's Karek?

DARRYN

Nope. No. The other way. You just..

Amarisa just stares at them.

AMARISA

Don't you wanna stop The Hammer?

Darryn thinks about it, maybe for the first time.

DARRYN

I don't know. Is one loss that bad?

KYN THE CAT DRUNK

Yeah girl. Why do you only focus on the negative? Kyrax here, he killed the goblins of -

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

Not Kyrax. Carnell.

KYN THE CAT DRUNK

Darnell?

Amarisa stands up.

AMARISA

Forget it. You're still dead. Maybe you always were.

DARRYN

Here's my advice, free of charge. You're a small girl with a small amount of money. Go get yourself a small drink and forget all about your father. He's as good as dead.

AMARISA

I'm not gonna give up. I'll get the Sword of Boldness and rescue my father myself if I have to.

Darryn's ears perk up.

DARRYN

Did you say - Sword of Boldness?

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

No she said -

DARRYN

Shut up.

Amarisa turns back.

AMARISA

Yes. The Sword of Boldness. The most powerful sword ever forged. The one you never could find.

DARRYN

Just a story. It doesn't exist.

AMARISA

It exists. And I know where it is.

Amarisa pulls a worn DIARY out of her pack.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Before The Hammer took my father,
he gave me this. I think this is
what she was really after.

DARRYN

What does The Hammer need a sword
for? She's doing pretty ok with
what she's got.

AMARISA

Why does she need to be so big? Why
does she need all the stuff in her
face? I don't know, but when I get
The Sword and get my father, I'll
ask her. Face-to-face.

He grabs the diary, flips through it. Notes. Diagrams. A MAP.

DARRYN

Shako. The Edge of the World.

AMARISA

That's right. It's in the Shako
Swamps, guarded by some sort of
creature. This is your chance!
Think about it: Darryn the Bold.
The Sword of Boldness. It's like
fate... or something.

For a second, Darryn is excited. But then - he throws the
diary back and takes a drink.

DARRYN

No.

Amarisa shakes her head. Darryn does another shot.

AMARISA

You wanna hide out here? Fine.
After all I read about you, I
expected more. But I guess this is
the real you. So you just stay here
and be - you!

Amarisa hurries out. Darryn takes a shot and stands up.

DARRYN

You think you can find the SoB and
kill The Hammer? Fine! I'm staying
here and - oh. Stood up too fast.

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

EXT. THE DEATH DIMENSION - DARRYN'S DRUNKEN DREAM

Darryn floats through the death dimension. Dancer floating
over him. His words drift through Darryn's head.

DANCER

I just need you to be - you.

Darryn remembers - pulling the Talking Sword from the tree.
Finding the knife in a pile of treasure. Being presented the
Elven blade in an elaborate ceremony. Killing the bears, the
trolls, the dragon.

DANCER (CONT'D)

I just need you to be - you.

DARRYN

What does that mean? Who am I?

KYN THE CAT DRUNK

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

Karyn... Kyrax... Darnell... Derek... Karek... Carnelll...

NARRATOR (V.O.)

...A warrior so powerful...

AMARISA

...the greatest warrior ever...

The images and voices grow faster and faster, converging into
a hyperspeed blur of white light and noise until we're...

INT. TAVERN/INN - NIGHT

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

Darryn's still on the floor where he passed out this morning.
No one has moved him all day. Creatures step around him. On
him. But not one helps him.

Darryn stands up - a momentary moment of clarity.

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

DARRYN

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 giggling. A man's laugh. Sounds like they're having a very good time.

Darryn walks on, stops, comes back for another quick listen. Yep, still having fun. On to the next door. He knocks.

AMARISA

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

DARRYN

All right, girl. I'll do it.

AMARISA

What? What are you doing here? How did you even know where I was?

DARRYN

I had a vision and knew you'd be here.

AMARISA

You had a vision? You're drunk.

DARRYN

Yes, but that's not the point. The point is I've decided to help you.

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)

Is this your plan? To bore The Hammer to death?

AMARISA

Gimme that.

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

DARRYN

You can't fight with books, girl.

AMARISA

How would you know? Probably the first time you've ever held one.

DARRYN

So? Leave all this nerd stuff and grab your sword. We'll get the SoB, kill The Hammer, and save dad. What about mom? She around? Is it -like-serious between them? She's heard of me right? I mean -

AMARISA

Ugh! Will you just get out of here? I don't need you. I got someone.

DARRYN

What?

AMARISA

I got someone else. He overheard our conversation. Said he'd do it.

DARRYN

What happened to "Oh Darryn, I went to everyone. Help me, Darryn."

She shrugs, stuffs another thick book into her pack.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

I'll do it for half of what you're paying him.

AMARISA

He's doing it for free. Something about heroes not taking money.

DARRYN

Then I'll do it for free. That's a one time offer, by the way.

AMARISA

He's already on his way.

She tries to tighten the straps on her bag. Too full.

DARRYN

But has he fought in four pitched battles? Has he dueled the King of the savage Northern Tribes? Has he-

AMARISA

No, but he's young and handsome and he looks like he can swing a sword. I bet you couldn't even make it up a flight of stairs without stopping to catch your breath.

DARRYN

Is he in any of your books?

She stops stuffing books into her bag, looks at him.

AMARISA

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

DARRYN

It's like you said: I'm the greatest warrior ever and-

AMARISA

That's not exactly what I said...

AMARISA (CONT'D)

I'm not your friend.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

- it dawned on me today that, in my retirement, some people may have forgotten that. All I hear is Turk and Polstan and Steve! I'm gonna tell you this because we're friends, but I think my reputation might be dying. If I don't do this quest, I might end up a drunk who dies in some crappy tavern with people not remembering me. But if I do this quest, then I'll end up a drunk who dies in a crappy tavern with people knowing that I'm the best.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Great... So this is really more about your ego than helping me...

DARRYN

Yes! Now you're getting it!

A loud knock at the door.

AMARISA

Finally.

Amarisa throws on her overstuffed bag and opens the door.

Two Hammer soldiers. MUSTACHE has a black mustache and an evil smile. DARRYL THE BALD (aka BALDY) is bald and has been hit in the head one too many times.

BALDY

This her?

MUSTACHE SOLDIER
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, will you-

BALDY
Darryn? No, me name's Darr-yl.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER
Not you, idiot.

Mustache notices Darryn and walks into the room.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER (CONT'D)
You look familiar. Do I know you?

Darryn sucks in his gut, smiles.

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

MUSTACHE SOLDIER
No. That ain't it.

Mustache snaps his fingers.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER (CONT'D)
You're the guy that I drag out of
the gutters every morning. Hey,
Darryl! 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 looks at him, unimpressed.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER
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

I'm a little rusty. Also I'm drunk,
and there's two of him.

Mustache, angry now, retreats behind Baldy.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER

Darryl! Get him!

Baldy throws Amarisa down, draws his sword. Darryn reaches on the bed and tosses book after book as Baldy moves forward.

AMARISA

Hey! C'mon! Those are my books!

Baldy swings his sword. Darryn uses a book to block. The two parry and move in a classic book vs sword fight.

Baldy pushes Darryn back and 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 history of the..." Who reads these things?

Darryn blocks Baldy's sword with *Ancient Histories*, a book so thick that the sword gets stuck in it. Baldy 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 are in bed together. They both scream.

Baldy grabs Darryn and, just as his eyes roll back into his head, he's able to see Amarisa in HER ROOM. Mustache has her!

AMARISA

Get off of me you weirdo!

POW! POW! Baldy punches Darryn repeatedly 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

Where they go through a table of MINOTAUR DWARFS playing cards. They're bull-headed dwarfs (in every sense).

Darryn lands on top of Baldy, who's out cold. He slowly gets to his feet and sees more Hammer Soldiers with swords.

A tough, cigar-smoking Minotaur Dwarf looks to the broken table, to the Hammer 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 now. It wasn't my-

Cigar dwarf PUNCHES Darryn in the gut. Another minotaur dwarf charges at a Hammer soldier, goring him with his horns.

It's a full on bar-brawl! Soldiers match swords with mercenaries. Elves swing from chandeliers. A muscle-bound Troll tosses a man into a pile of orcs. Through it all, 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! She drops it on the guy's noggin.

IN THE CORNER OF THE TAVERN, the brawl raging on, Ryn the Rat Drunk raises his head.

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

What's all that noise, huh?

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

RYN THE RAT DRUNK (CONT'D)

Oh, that's not good.

Kyn the Cat Drunk raises his head.

KYN THE CAT DRUNK

Hey! You can't do that. We're friends with David the Bloated. He'll cut your head -agh!

A hammer soldier stabs Kyn.

KYN THE CAT DRUNK (CONT'D)

Oh, also not good.

Cut away from the corner and - where's Mustache? There he is, dragging Amarisa through the bar.

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

DARRYN

You heard her. Let her go.

Mustache points his sword at Amarisa's neck.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER

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 back outside.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Two horses, waiting 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. He whiffs it completely, and it plunks into the mud.

DARRYN

What? How did you -

TOLAND

I swung in through the upstairs window, hoping to get to Ms. Albright before the soldiers did. Unfortunately, she was already gone, but I did find your sword.

DARRYN

And who are you?

TOLAND
I'm Toland Longstream. I'm helping
Ms. Albright find her father.

Darryn picks up his sword, catches his breath.

DARRYN
Oh, right. The handsome knight who
doesn't take money.

TOLAND
Me? A knight? Oh, no, sir. I'm just
a simple farmboy who practices
swordplay for four 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? It's MUSTACHE! Poor Toland. We barely knew you.

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

AMARISA
Where is To- Oh my gods!

DARRYN
Come 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 in
time to see Darryn and Amarisa ride away.

EXT. HAMMER'S CASTLE - NIGHT

An intimidating cliffside castle with spires so tall they
almost pierce the half-lit moon.

THE HAMMER (V.O.)
I do not see the girl.

INT. HAMMER'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM

A cold room full of stone and death.

The Hammer sits in a massive throne carved out of the wall. Her hand taps the handle of her hammer. Skull Woman stands nearby, watching. Waiting.

Shadows dance across the nervous face of Mustache.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER

You see, m'lord, there was a man-

THE HAMMER

You couldn't handle one man?

MUSTACHE SOLDIER

Well, he was actually quite good with a sword, but I did kill him.

The tapping grows faster, louder. Mustache notices.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER (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?

MUSTACHE SOLDIER

Yes, m'lord. Crazy old drunk who -

THE HAMMER

Why have I not heard this before?

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

MUSTACHE SOLDIER

He's, uh, really nobody. He just -

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 SOLDIER

Yes, m'lord. It won't happen again.

THE HAMMER

I know.

Her hand wraps around Mustache's face and squeezes, until his head bursts like a tomato. She casually throws away his body before turning to Skull Woman.

SKULL WOMAN

Impossible. Darryn is dead. Even if you hadn't smashed his head, my -

THE HAMMER

We must be sure. No man, alive or dead, is going to stop me from having that sword. Not now.

The darkness of the castle fades into...

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Amarisa watches as the city burns in the distance. Offscreen, loud snoring sounds.

She turns and we see Darryn, face down in the mud. Amarisa nudges him with her foot. He keeps snoring.

DARRYN

...Ooh. Meow. Bad kitty...

Amarisa scrunches her face, confused. She kicks him.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Ok. Ok. Now you call me kitty...

She kicks him again. HARD. Darryn shoots up.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Huh? What? Where are we?

Darryn gets to his feet and takes out a flask.

AMARISA

My home. My dad. Even Toland. All gone. But you're still here.

DARRYN

I know, right? So young and you're already on a quest with the greatest warrior of all time. Of course, when I was your age, I'd already killed the Serpent of Uth.

She stares daggers at him. He takes another drink.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

No one thought I stood a chance. I hadn't even had my first drink yet! Well, that's not true. I was quite drunk when -

AMARISA

Oh my gods!

EXT. FOREST - MAIN ROAD - DAY

They ride down a muddy forest road, Darryn still drinking. Amarisa reads the map.

DARRYN

Do you know where you're going?

AMARISA

The Sword is in Shako Swamp, but first we're going to meet the rebels. We'll need their help.

DARRYN

The who?

AMARISA

Toland and I were to meet up with a rebel force hidden in the forest. Up ahead, there's a fork in the road, we go to the -

DARRYN

I don't know anything about rebels, but I do know sword quests. I get the sword, kill the bad guy, and save your dad. You throw me a huge party, and I drink way too much. Everyone's happy.

AMARISA

But they can help us. They're -

DARRYN

How many quests have you been on?

Amarisa does some quick math in her head.

AMARISA

Including this one? One.

DARRYN

One? What have you been doing with your life?

AMARISA

What have I been doing with my life? I've been studying, reading, learning how to be a productive member of society.

DARRYN

Sounds boring.

AMARISA

What? I should just drink my life away, feeling sorry for myself?

DARRYN

Hey, you came to me all right?

AMARISA

I'm a teenager. I do dumb things.

DARRYN

Well, we're together now. We should make the best of it. Drink?

He holds the flask to her. Amarisa gives him a look.

AMARISA

Did you really do all that stuff I read about?

DARRYN

Girl, I did all that stuff and -

AMARISA

Did the Hammer really kill you?

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

Don't get mad at me just because you've never read a book.

DARRYN

I don't need to read books. I write books, and those books are called *My Life*. That little fantasy world you live in? It's not gonna help you out here. This is the real world. You'll learn.

AMARISA

I've already learned plenty.

DARRYN

Hey. What's this?

They've arrived at a FORK IN THE ROAD. Down the RIGHT: Dark. Creepy. On the LEFT: Nice and normal.

AMARISA

I was literally just telling you about this. Come on - we go right.

DARRYN

Whoaohoh! I think I know which way to go, and we go left.

AMARISA

Toland told me to take the path to the right. We go that way and -

DARRYN

And Toland's dead ok? You wanna be dead? Take his advice, and go down the dark and creepy path. But I'm going down the easy road. Everyone knows that when faced between hard and easy, you choose easy.

AMARISA

What? No! When faced with the choice between the difficult and the easy, choose the difficult for that is - Hey! Where are you going?

Darryn heads towards the easy, normal path on the left. Amarisa starts for the right. It does look scary.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Agh! This is a bad idea.

She rides ahead, taking the left path towards Darryn.

EXT. MUDDY ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Much the same path as before. Nice. Normal. Easy.

DARRYN
See? I told you. Easy.

UP AHEAD, Two low-level HAMMER SOLDIERS have stopped a shorter humanoid figure. They push him around and laugh.

DARRYN (CONT'D)
C'mon. Let's get off the road.

Darryn's half into the forest.

AMARISA
Where are you going?

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

AMARISA
But they're bullying that guy.

DARRYN
It's a rough world sweetheart, and
you're not paying me to rescue
idiots who travel out here alone.

AMARISA
I'm not paying you at all.

DARRYN
All the more reason for me not to
get involved.

AMARISA
I'm going to help him.

Amarisa 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

The two black-armored HAMMER SOLDIERS stand weapons at the ready, shoving BILFIX, a short humanoid GNOME. He wears a mischievous grin and glasses.

BILFIX

Gentlemen, Bilfix told you. He doesn't know anything about any rebels or any girl. He is simply -

SOLDIER #1

Shut up you! We'll tell Bilfix what he does and doesn't know.

SOLDIER #2

Right! We'll tell Bilfix what he does and doesn't know.

SOLDIER #1

I just said that.

SOLDIER #2

Right! You just said that.

AMARISA (O.S.)

Hey! Leave him alone!

All three of them turn to see Amarisa riding towards them.

SOLDIER #1

It's a girl.

BILFIX

It's a girl.

SOLDIER #2

Right! It's a girl.

SOLDIER #1 AND BILFIX

We just said that!

Amarisa reaches them.

SOLDIER #1 (CONT'D)

You. Girl. Get off the horse. You're coming with us.

BILFIX

No. She is coming with Bilfix.

SOLDIER #1

She is most definitely not going with Bilfix. She is coming with us.

AMARISA

I can make my own decisions. I'm -

DARRYN (O.S.)

She's not going with anyone.

Hey! Darryn's here, despite what he said. Bilfix eyes Darryn.

BILFIX

Bilfix is wondering why you are on Toland Longstream's horse?

SOLDIER #1

No one cares about any horses. You all be quiet and -

BILFIX

Also, Bilfix believes you look familiar. Does Bilfix know you?

DARRYN

Of course you know me. I'm Darryn The Bold. I killed the White Wolves of Ottenberg. I slayed the -

BILFIX

No, that's not it.

Bilfix snaps his fingers.

BILFIX (CONT'D)

You're the guy who's always passed out in the tavern. Bilfix often takes your coins when you're- oops.

DARRYN

That's where they go! You little!

Darryn jumps off his horse and BAMF! Bilfix disappears in a cloud of smoke, reappears right behind Darryn.

BILFIX

Oh, that's not very nice.

Bilfix is a FOG GNOME. These aren't your grandma's garden gnomes. They're fast, devilish, can duplicate themselves and can teleport anywhere that they can physically see.

Darryn turns to grab Bilfix. He disappears again, reappears, and Muay Thai kicks our hero hard in the butt.

DARRYN

Ow!

SOLDIER #1
 Hey! Fog Gnome! Stop all of this
 disappearing and reappearing!

SOLDIER #2
 Right! Stop all of this - ow!

Bilfix reappears, kicks Soldier #2! The gnome laughs. Darryn
 and the soldiers unsheathe their swords!

BILFIX
 Oh no! Not the swords!

The soldiers slash again and again. Each time, the gnome
 disappears and reappears nearby.

SOLDIER #1
 Give up gnome. You're outnumbered.

BILFIX
 Is Bilfix outnumbered?

Bilfix smiles and there's suddenly an army of Bilfix clones,
 all laughing and tumbling.

SOLDIER #1
 You can't fool me gnome. I know
 which one you are.

Soldier #1 grabs a Bilfix.

SOLDIER #1 (CONT'D)
 I've got you now.

SOLDIER #2
 Right! I've got you now!

Soldier #2 rams his sword through the Bilfix that Soldier #1
 is holding.

SOLDIER #1
 No you idiot! Don't - agh!

The Bilfix clone disappears in a puff of smoke as Soldier
 #2's sword goes through the Bilfix and into Soldier #1. Dead.

SOLDIER #2
 Right. Don't - ah, oops.

The clones disappear, until there is only the real Bilfix.

BILFIX
 Right. Oops!

SOLDIER #2
Hey! That's what I said.

DARRYN
Hey, genius.

Darryn runs Soldier #2 through with his sword. Also dead.

DARRYN (CONT'D)
Now it's just you and me, gnome.

AMARISA
Hey, I'm here too.

BILFIX
Bilfix says good. He will have
revenge for his friend, Toland.

DARRYN
Toland? What are you talking about?

AMARISA
Seriously. I'm right here.

Darryn, sword in hand, approaches Bilfix, and the gnome is on Darryn's head, knocking him on the skull. He's in front of Darryn, kicking him in the shin. Each time, Darryn gets angrier and swings his sword more wildly.

BILFIX
Big sword. Compensating for
something?

Bilfix's words echo as there are suddenly ten little Bilfix clone gnomes in a circle surrounding Darryn.

BILFIX (CONT'D)
Which one is it? Choose wisely.

Darryn swings his sword in a circle, slicing through the air, each fake gnome vanishing, until he reaches the real Bilfix, who disappears and reappears again.

BILFIX (CONT'D)
You chose poorly.

He laughs, until an oversized book comes crashing down on his head. He falls to his knees, glasses flying off his face.

BILFIX (CONT'D)
No. No!

Darryn grabs the glasses from the dirt.

DARRYN

A fog gnome who wears glasses? You must be real popular back home.

BILFIX

C'mon guys! Bilfix was just messing with you! A joke! Right? Right?!

Bilfix searches blindly for his glasses.

BILFIX (CONT'D)

Give Bilfix back his spectacles! Bilfix is blind without them.

Darryn blindfolds the gnome with a piece of cloth.

DARRYN

Those books are useful after all.

AMARISA

What just happened?

DARRYN

You've never heard of Fog Gnomes? Mischievous, lying, little thieves. They make illusions of themselves and bounce around from place to place. But they can only bounce where they can see. No see, no go.

BILFIX

You want to tie Bilfix up? Fine! Tie him up! Bilfix is not afraid!

DARRYN

They also have this annoying habit of speaking in third person.

BILFIX

You will not kill Bilfix like you killed Toland!

DARRYN

Shut up, gnome.

BILFIX

Bilfix does not fear The Hammer!

AMARISA

What is he talking about?

REBEL LEADER (O.S.)

He's saying the time of The Hammer is over.

REBEL LEADER and a group rag-tag rebels emerge from the forest, pointing bows and swords towards our heroes.

BILFIX

Oh sure. Now you guys show up.

Darryn looks to the rebels, surrounded.

DARRYN

Look, I think there's been some mistake. We don't work for the -

REBEL LEADER

Shut up!

Leader approaches Darryn. Instant recognition on both sides.

REBEL LEADER (CONT'D)

Son of a bitch!

Darryn smiles.

DARRYN

Hi -

BAM! Rebel Leader punches Darryn. Eyes roll back. Out cold.

Darkness.

DARRYN'S POV.

A fuzzy flickering of light. Darryn blinks, coming to.

REBEL LEADER (O.S.)

It's not going to be easy. Just getting to the swamp is...

AMARISA (O.S.)

Toland said you knew about something guarding The Sword?

REBEL LEADER (O.S.)

Yes. A creature. It's -

Bilfix's head and glasses fill the screen. He smiles.

BILFIX

Hey buddy!

END DARRYN'S POV.

INT. REBEL LEADER'S TENT - DAY

A make-shift command center. Amarisa and the rebel leader stand near a table full of maps and those miniature armies. Darryn rests nearby.

BILFIX (CONT'D)
 Drink this. It'll help your head.

Darryn pushes the drink away.

DARRYN
 Get away from me, gnome.

REBEL LEADER
 Never knew you to refuse a drink.

DARRYN
 Never knew you to hit so hard.

Leader walks over, revealing that she is JYNNY, Darryn's girlfriend from before. Same woman, but she's gone Sarah Connor on us - tough-as-nails soldier. Freeze on Jynny.

SUPER: "JYNNY. DARRYN'S GIRLFRIEND - IT'S COMPLICATED - BAD ASS REBEL LEADER."

JYNNY
 Things change.

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

Jynny puts her hand on the hilt.

JYNNY
 Last time I saw you, you weren't so fat.

Bilfix snarfs.

BILFIX
 You show her some respect, fat man.

Darryn snaps the drink out of Bilfix's hands, down it.

DARRYN
 What's up with the Fog Gnome?

BAMF! Bilfix is in front of Darryn. He kicks at Bilfix. BAMF! Bilfix is gone, and Darryn hits the corner of a table, hard.

AMARISA
 He's cute.

Bilfix bows, extravagantly.

DARRYN

Girl, if we're gonna make it on this quest, you gotta know the first rule of combat: Never trust a Fog Gnome.

Bilfix sticks out his tongue.

JYNNY

The Hammer has affected everyone, including Fog Gnomes.

Darryn limps over to the table.

DARRYN

He did attack me.

JYNNY

Well, you were on Toland's horse, going the wrong way, with Amarisa.

AMARISA

I told him to take the other path.

DARRYN

We got here didn't we?

JYNNY

You look a little rounder, but you're still the same old Darryn. I'd heard the rumors, but I didn't think it was true.

DARRYN

What rumors? That I was alive?

JYNNY

That you were still alive, and that you were a drunk who'd give up on life.

DARRYN

And you never thought to come check them out? See if they were true?

JYNNY

I think I made the right decision.

Darryn ignores her, inspects one of the miniature armies on the table, carelessly tosses it.

DARRYN

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

JYNNY

This might surprise you, but there are still people in the world who care about more than where their next drink is coming from. A lot of good people have died fighting The Hammer, like Toland.

DARRYN

Like me! I died fighting The Hammer, ok?

Darryn sits down and puts his feet up on the table. Clumps of mud fall onto the maps.

JYNNY

Oh, I heard the whole story. But what I don't understand is how, if you were dead, you're alive now.

DARRYN

Hello! I got brought back to life.

JYNNY

So you were only temporarily dead?

DARRYN

Yes! Exactly.

JYNNY

Right. Just like when I found you "temporarily exploring the Southern Islands" with the whores at Tollis.

DARRYN

Tollis is in the Southern Islands.

AMARISA

Jynny, we're -

JYNNY

Or that time you were "rescuing the Virgin Queen of Yyz" - from her virginity.

DARRYN

It was her royal command!

AMARISA

Darryn, I think -

JYNNY

Or how about that time I caught you
in bed with the Thonyzian? Maybe
you just have a thing for cats!

DARRYN

That was one time!

AMARISA

STOP!

Jynny and Darryn, both angry, look at Amarisa.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Guys, we're on the same side here.
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 - Sure, this
rebellion could use some help. And,
yeah, Darryn's kind of a loser-

DARRYN

I'm right here.

AMARISA

But the point is, we've got to pull
together if we wanna stop The
Hammer. We're all we've got.

Jynny stares down at the table, sighs.

JYNNY

We all know the story - The Sword
keeps Tiamon locked away. If The
Hammer gets a hold of it, there's
nothing we can do to stop her from
freeing the demon. I'll help you.

DARRYN

Look, honey, I already got one girl
to babysit. I don't need two.

JYNNY

You're going to get her killed.
It's a wonder you haven't already.

DARRYN

Fine! But, for the record, I don't
need your help.

JYNNY

And for the record, I'm not helping you. I'm helping her!

AMARISA

Guys, please. Just look at the map.

SERIES OF SHOTS - TRAVEL BY MAP

Each scene is SUPERIMPOSED over the map from Amarisa's diary.

A) Forest - Darryn, Amarisa, Jynny, and Bilfix ride through the trees.

JYNNY (V.O.)

First, we'll ride through the Forest of-

DARRYN (V.O.)

Wait. The gnome is coming?

BILFIX (V.O.)

Yes! Of course! You will get to spend more time with Bilfix.

B) Plains - Uscadian Draft Unicorns -strong unicorns with black legs, tails, and manes- watch as they ride past.

JYNNY (V.O.)

Then, through the Uscadian Plains.

AMARISA

Uscadian Unicorns! I once read that during mating season, they -

DARRYN

Don't care! Wait. Did you say mating season?

C) Mountains - In a blizzard, they huddle around a fire.

JYNNY (V.O.)

The Laughing Peaks are so cold they've driven men insane.

BILFIX

B-B-Bilfix is s-s-o c-c-c-old-d-d.

DARRYN

I-i-i k-know. Isn't that fu-fu-nny?

D) Desert - Vast. Empty. Hot.

JYNNY (V.O.)
And finally into the Sea of Sand.

The map dissolves, and the desert takes up the screen.

EXT. SEA OF SAND DESERT - DAY

Sand. A lot of sand. Even T.E. Lawrence would think this is a lot of sand.

Vultures circle overhead. Every creature knows better than to get caught out here during the day. Every creature, that is, except for these four.

DARRYN
Remember when were so cold? It was great.

AMARISA
Are you sure this is the right way?
I feel like we've been here.

Darryn shields his eyes, looks ahead. Vultures flying closer.

DARRYN
Yes. We just keep going this way.
Or was it...

One of the circling birds caws and we

PUSH INTO THE VULTURE'S EYE

And flow through the creature's body until we exit in a

CAULDRON OF BLACK WATER

Showing Darryn and the crew riding through the desert.

INT. HAMMER CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Skull Woman watches through the murky cauldron.

THE HAMMER (O.S.)
So, you were wrong once again.

The Hammer lies, relaxed, on a large table. A white-hot fire burns in a fireplace behind her, the only light in the room.

SKULL WOMAN
There are few in this world who
have the power to conquer death.
Even those who do, it has a price.

THE HAMMER

Everything has a price, sister.

Skull Woman walks toward the fire, reaches in WITH HER HAND and pulls out a long, metal nail. It burns her skin, but she doesn't feel it - or at least doesn't acknowledge it.

SKULL WOMAN

Yes. I suppose it does.

Skull Woman grabs a hammer and walks over to The Hammer. She finds a fleshy spot in The Hammer's head and holds the nail.

THE HAMMER

I will have The Sword. I will release the demon, and I will reform this world in my image.

CLANK! Skull Woman's hammer comes down, driving the nail into The Hammer's skull. CLANK! CLANK! With each shot, The Hammer smiles, truly enjoying the pain.

THE HAMMER (CONT'D)

Do you think you can make sure he stays dead this time?

SKULL WOMAN

He will not make it out of desert.

Skull Woman drives her hammer down again and we're back...

EXT. SEA OF SAND DESERT - CONTINUOUS

Our weary crew continues to ride.

AMARISA

Jynny, where you guys really, like, together?

JYNNY

Yes. For a while.

AMARISA

Why? I mean, like, seriously. Why?

JYNNY

You always ask so many questions?

AMARISA

I'm inquisitive. Eur-

DARRYN

Don't get her started.

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

JYNNY

It might be hard to believe now,
but he used to really be something.
I used to think he could do it all.

AMARISA

All that stuff is true? Even the
dragon?

DARRYN

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

JYNNY

And how much gold did it take
before you were convinced the
dragon could be killed?

DARRYN

Sure, I got paid, but guess what?
The Pondorians are still dragon-
free, and I'm broke. So we see who
got the better end of that deal.

JYNNY

That's all you really need to know
right there: Darryn The Bold only
cares about one person.

DARRYN

Hey, My whole life is built around
risking it for other people!

JYNNY

For their money maybe! When have
you done anything that wasn't for
gold? Or glory? Or -

AMARISA

Uh, guys. Hate to interrupt, but
what's that?

In the distance, a small tornado has formed.

DARRYN

It's just a dervish. Nothing to
worry about.

AMARISA

And that?

Another tornado has formed. And another. And another. They whirl around, connecting to create a larger tornado.

DARRYN

That's just a lot of tiny dervishes combining into one super dervish.

BILFIX

Bilfix thinks this is something to worry about.

Thunder. Lightning. The SUPER DERVISH has become a huge F5 of wind and sand blowing straight toward us.

DARRYN

I've seen worse. When I was -

JYNNY

Darryn! Shut up! Let's go!

They pull push forward, wind assaulting their skin. Hazy in the distance, the ruins of a tall DESERT CASTLE.

AMARISA

Where did that come from?

DARRYN

Who cares? We can't outrun this storm.

JYNNY

You really think it's a good idea to go into the random castle?

DARRYN

You wanna take your chances out here, "general"? Go ahead.

Darryn rides toward the castle. Amarisa and Bilfix follow.

JYNNY

Oh, this is a bad idea.

EXT. DESERT CASTLE - DAY

A fantasy-take on a Middle-Eastern castle. Two semi-clad women stand on the walls watching as the crew rides in.

INT. DESERT CASTLE - ENTRYWAY

Torches cast shadows down dark hallways that stretch in every direction. Wind shakes the castle walls.

DARRYN

We can wait out the storm here.

AMARISA

Lit torches. Someone is here.

BILFIX

Perhaps this someone is seeking shelter from the storm as well.

JYNNY

Did you see anyone else out there?
C'mon Darryn; this is a bad place.

DARRYN

And what do you suggest? Going back into the storm?

As Darryn walks the halls, a voice echoes through his head.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Darryn... Darryn...

DARRYN

Did you hear that?

AMARISA

Hear what?

The voice echoes through his head again.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Darryn...

DARRYN

That. Someone saying, "Darryn..."

BILFIX

Yes. Bilfix hears it, but its not "Darryn"; its "Bilfix", which is much better Bilfix thinks.

JYNNY

Both of you are crazy. There's nothing here.

Still, she reaches for her blade.

Out of the shadows, a semi-clad, blonde woman appears.

She is a DESERT SIREN, like a Greek Siren, except, you know, in the desert. Her voice is as seductive as her appearance.

BLONDE SIREN
Hello, Darryn.

He stops, dumb-struck. Emphasis on dumb.

DARRYN
Uh, hi.

Another Siren, this one brunette, appears from the shadows.

BRUNETTE SIREN
Darryn the Bold. You must be tired.
Come in. Relax.

A third siren, this one with black hair.

BLACK-HAIRED SIREN
Yes. Darryn the Bold. Relax. You
too, short man.

DARRYN
Well, it has been a long journey. A
little relaxing wouldn't hurt.

BILFIX
Yes. Bilfix agrees.

Jynny and Amarisa are not impressed.

JYNNY
How do you know his name?

BLONDE SIREN
Everyone knows Darryn the Bold. The
Fit. The Handsome. His strength and
skill are unmatched.

DARRYN
You hear that? Unmatched. You
should take notes.

Jynny and Amarisa both shake their heads.

BRUNETTE SIREN
Darryn the Bold, let us bathe you
in the purifying waters of our
desert oasis.

Darryn, becoming dumber, if that's possible.

DARRYN
Ah, yes. Bath. Bath is good.

The Siren grabs his hand and smiles. The other grabs Bilfix.

The Black-haired Siren steps in front of Jynny.

BLACK-HAIRED SIREN
Why don't you wait here?

INT. DESERT CASTLE - BATHING AREA

The Sirens lead the men in. Steam rises from a large bath.

BLONDE SIREN
Darryn the Bold, let me help you.

She starts helping Darryn to disrobe, removing his sword.

DARRYN
Oh, I need to hold on to-

BLONDE SIREN
Shh.... You don't need that here.

DARRYN
Duh, why would I? We're just -

BLONDE SIREN
Please. Stop talking.

INT. DESERT CASTLE - ENTRYWAY

Jynny and Black-haired Siren face off. Classic Stare down.

BLACK-HAIRED SIREN
Obviously, your boyfriend is no longer interested in you.

JYNNY
Ok, first of all, he's not my boyfriend. Second of all -

INT. DESERT CASTLE - BATHING AREA

Darryn and Bilfix relax in the bath, as the Sirens pour water over them. Brunette Siren touches Bilfix and he nervously duplicates until several Bilfix's appear.

BRUNETTE SIREN
Oh, Bilfix! Surely, you are the mightiest of all the Fog Gnomes.

Bilfix recovers, returning to a single Bilfix.

BILFIX

You hear that Darryn? Mightiest of all the Fog Gnomes.

Blonde Siren massages Darryn's shoulders.

DARRYN

Bilfix, you are the mightiest Fog Gnome. I'm sorry I doubted you.

BILFIX

You know what Bilfix thinks, Darryn The Bold? You are not so fat.

BLONDE SIREN

This is nice. You guys are friends.

BRUNETTE SIREN

Just two friends. Relaxing.

The men lean back, eyes heavy.

BILFIX

Yes. Friends. Hey, weren't there some other friends wth us earlier?

Darryn shrugs. Bilfix shrugs. Everyone laughs.

BACK TO JYNNY, AMARISA, AND BLACK-HAIRED SIREN

Jynny's hand goes to the hilt of her sword. Black-haired Siren places her hand over Jynny's hand. Oh no.

JYNNY

Get. Your hand. Off. My sword.

Black-haired Siren smiles. She's got long pointy teeth!

BLACK-HAIRED SIREN

Little girls who play with swords often end up stuck.

JYNNY

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

AMARISA

So you do still like Darryn!

Jynny tries to draw her blade. The Siren pushes it back down into the sheath, while her other hand morphs into long claws and SWINGS. Jynny dodges, claws centimeters from her eyes.

Jynny strikes back with a rapid series of calculated strikes - kick, punch, punch, knee, headbutt! Where did Jynny learn Muay Thai kickboxing? Who knows? She's been busy.

Jynny pulls her sword, just as the Siren gets back to her feet. With a flourish that DTB only wishes he could do, Jynny attacks, but the Siren dodges every move.

Siren strikes back, just as deft. Jynny blocks and dodges.

Jynny swings her sword again, but Siren sends it clanking across the room. PUNCH! Straight in Jynny's face.

BACK TO DARRYN AND BILFIX IN THE BATH

The Sirens massage the boys' shoulders. In the background, fighting sounds.

BILFIX

This is what Bilfix is talking about.

DARRYN

This is also what Darryn is talking about. Can we do something about that noise though? It's really killing the vibe.

Blonde looks at Brunette Siren, nods toward the fighting sounds. Brunette Siren stands up, struts from the room.

BILFIX

Where are you going nice lady?

BLONDE SIREN

Don't worry about her little man. She'll be back soon.

Blonde Siren moves one of her hands to Bilfix's shoulder, so that she is now massaging both men with one hand each.

BILFIX

Oh, ok. That feels nice, too.

BACK TO THE FIGHT

AAAGH! Amarisa leaps on Siren's back. Siren easily throws her across the room, where she lands with a THUD!

Siren gets down on all fours and WINGS sprout from her back. Wings. Claws. She's more birdlike as she leaps at Amarisa!

Jynny catches her MID-AIR and the two tumble through the hall, until Jynny ends up on top, raining down punches, permanently re-arranging Black-haired Siren's face.

AMARISA

Jynny! Look out!

Like a spear, Brunette Siren, who also has wings now, rockets into Jynny, knocking her off of Black-haired Siren.

Claws! Swords! Fists! Wings! Jynny fights off the two Sirens!

BACK TO DARRYN AND BILFIX

Sounds of the fight noisy in the background. Screams from all of the women as they're tossed through the fray.

DARRYN

Seriously. That noise - I should -

BLONDE SIREN

I have a fun idea! Let's see who can hold their breath the longest!

BACK TO THE FIGHT

Jynny falls back, sees her sword, just out of reach. The Sirens see it too!

Jynny races to the sword, grabs it just before Black-haired siren does and STABS it right through her chest. She's dead.

JYNNY

Now who's stuck bitch?

AMARISA

Jynny!

Winged Brunette Siren speeds toward Jynny. Jynny takes her sword, Black-haired Siren still skewered, and holds it in front of her. Winged Siren flies right into it.

JYNNY

Check it out. Two birds. One sword.

Amarisa shakes her head.

BACK TO THE BATH

Blonde Siren holds both of the men's heads under the water.

BLONDE SIREN

You're both doing so well. It's going to be hard to pick a -

SLICE! A sword decapitates Blonde Siren, revealing Jynny's head. The Siren's body slumps to the ground.

Darryn and Bilfix stand up, gasping for air.

DARRYN

What happened? Where am I? Why am I naked in a bath with him?

BILFIX

Yes. Please tell Bilfix why this is happening!

JYNNY

C'mon Darryn. It's not like this is the first time you've woken up wet and naked with a strange man.

Darryn starts to protest, shrugs instead.

BILFIX

Really? This has happened before?

DARRYN

Yes. No. Well, yes, but it wasn't like that. It wasn't like that!

He yells to Jynny and Amarisa, but they're already gone.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The storm has passed. The crew saddles up their mounts.

DARRYN

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

AMARISA

Darryn, you don't have to explain. This is Azmoor. It's fine.

As they speak, we PULL BACK to reveal the

BLACK CAULDRON OF WATER

Through which Skull Woman watches our heroes.

INT. HAMMER CASTLE - CONTINUOUS

Lackeys help The Hammer into the last pieces of her armor.

THE HAMMER

Once again, Darryn has overcome
your tricks.

Skull Woman stares, silent, unintimidated.

SKULL WOMAN

Without my tricks, you'd still be
some fat little girl who -

The Hammer's face piercings sizzle with anger.

THE HAMMER

What I do, I do for us sister, but
my tolerance has limits.

Minions shrink in fear. Skull Woman's eyes narrow.

SKULL WOMAN

Have you forgotten who put you on
that throne?

THE HAMMER

Have you forgotten it could have
been yours, if you'd had the guts?

The lackeys stare at each other. This is getting bad.

SKULL WOMAN

The time for the ritual draws near.

THE HAMMER

What of the prisoner?

SKULL WOMAN

He resists, but he will break.

THE HAMMER

All that suffering for nothing.

SKULL WOMAN

Without The Sword, all of our
suffering will be for nothing.

THE HAMMER

Do not tell me of suffering. I will
get The Sword myself.

The Hammer flexes in her armor.

SKULL WOMAN

Why not let him find The Sword?

THE HAMMER

Him?

SKULL WOMAN

If he dies, then he dies. But if he succeeds, then we take it from him. Either way...

The Hammer thinks it over.

THE HAMMER

Fine. I will take it from him, and I will take the old man's energy.

SKULL WOMAN

Even with these powers, it will not be easy to control Tiamon.

THE HAMMER

Have no doubt sister: The demon is only a means to an end. His time is over, and so is Darryn's. This world belongs to us.

EXT. DESERT'S EDGE - CAMP - NIGHT

The sands give way to snowcapped mountains in the background.

Jynny sharpens her sword. Bilfix prods a dying fire. Darryn drinks. Amarisa puts down her book.

AMARISA

Jynny, you are totally badass.

DARRYN

Jynevieve of Hylandia: Badass warrior princess. When I met you, all you cared about were dresses and parties.

Jynny stops sharpening, stands up.

JYNNY

C'mon. I'll show you how to fight.

AMARISA

Me?

DARRYN

Her?

JYNNY

You need to know how to fight for yourself. You can't depend on guys like him. Trust me.

Jynny stands up, hands Amarisa a small dagger.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

Here. Put this in your right hand, right foot forward.

Amarisa shadows Jynny as she speaks. Darryn watches.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

Feet apart. Shift your weight, so you can move to either side. Good.

DARRYN

Blah blah blah. You're gonna get her killed with all that thinking.

Darryn swings his sword with simple, brutal violence.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

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

Hey, savages win battles. I've been doing this for thirty years.

JYNNY

And you died. Remember?

DARRYN

Temporarily. I learned how to fight from Scotch ThorneBrush, the greatest mercenary who ever lived.

JYNNY

Scotch ThorneBrush was stabbed in the back in a drunken bar fight. Is that what you want to learn, girl? I've learned firsthand from Monsieur L'Abbat, Miyamoto Musashi, High Master Sigmund Ringneck-

DARRYN

Are you teaching her how to dance? Or how to fight?

BILFIX
Perhaps a friendly contest? Then
the girl can choose.

Darryn laughs. Jynny doesn't.

DARRYN
Come on. Seriously? You wanna learn
from her? Go ahead, but I'm not
bailing you out when you can't
remember which foot to step with.

JYNNY
What's wrong, Darryn? Scared?

Darryn stops in his tracks, turns back around.

DARRYN
Ok, fine. Just don't start crying.

He swings the sword lazily. Jynny easily dodges.

DARRYN (CONT'D)
Jynny, this is silly.

Jynny gracefully disarms Darryn, holds her sword to his neck.
Darryn pushes it away, picks up his sword.

DARRYN (CONT'D)
Ok, so you can move.

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

DARRYN (CONT'D)
But you can't play defense during a
fight. That's how you get killed.

JYNNY
You would know, wouldn't you?

Jynny swings HARD. Darryn blocks, but just barely.

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! Hitting Jynny in the ribs. She falls back.

DARRYN
I tried to warn you.

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

DARRYN (CONT'D)
What the hell Jynny?!

Jynny stabs again and again, each thrust releasing more pent up anger. Darryn barely avoids becoming a pincushion.

JYNNY

What the hell? What the hell?!
This! This the hell you jerk!

DARRYN

I don't even know what that means!

Jynny thrusts again. Darryn blocks, grabs her sword arm, disarms her. Jynny kicks, punches, elbows, knees.

JYNNY

You! You've never cared about
anyone but you!

Darryn tackles her to the ground. He's on top, full-mount position. This looks bad for Jynny.

DARRYN

Where is this coming from?

Jynny knees Darryn in the back, flips him over so that she is now on top. She rains down punches. Apparently, Jynny also trains with Ronda Rousey because she is a badass MMA fighter.

JYNNY

You could have been anything! King
of the world or a farmer, I don't
care. But you chose to be an idiot!

Darryn, covering his face.

DARRYN

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

Darryn holds up his hands in surrender.

JYNNY

I looked past all the lies and the
women, but I don't need you anymore
Darryn. I never did.

DARRYN

Ok. I understand.

Jynny calms 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.

AMARISA

Hey! She stopped. You cheated!

Darryn stands up, slowly, cautiously.

DARRYN

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

EXT. DESERT'S EDGE - CAMP - NIGHT

Bilfix stands watch. Jynny teaches Amarisa some sword moves. Darryn takes a drink. His eyelids grow heavy.

RYN THE RAT DRUNK (O.S.)

So Dylan the Old , you had to cheat to beat a woman in a fight?

Ghost versions of Kyn the Cat Drunk and Ryn the Rat Drunk walk out of the shadows.

DARRYN

What are you two doing here?

KYN THE CAT 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 RAT DRUNK

So that was all for their benefit?

DARRYN

What do you want?

KYN THE CAT DRUNK

Just tell her how you feel.

DARRYN

Oh gods. This a sword quest, ok? Not a feelings quest?

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

I know I'm just a drunken rat hallucination, but I feel like this is about more than just The Sword.

Darryn's eyes get heavier and heavier.

DARRYN
I know why I'm here - to get swords
and kill bad guys.

KYN THE CAT DRUNK
Yes, there's a reason you were
brought back and - David! Dawson!

Darryn's eyes close and a hand slaps him. When he opens them,
the drunks are gone. Bilfix stands there.

BILFIX
It's your watch, fat man.

EXT. EDGE OF SHAKO SWAMP - DAY

Dark trees, Grim and foreboding. Multi-colored lights flash.

DARRYN
This is it.

JYNNY
Shako. The end of the world.

AMARISA
Those lights, they're beautiful.

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

INSIDE THE SWAMP

Dark, overgrown. Snakes and other more fantastic creatures
slither nearby. Something is definitely watching us.

One of those beautiful pulsing lights slowly floats towards
Amarisa. She reaches for it.

AMARISA
Wow.

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

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 lion-sized rat with big sabretooth teeth and a long tail. It's ears perk up, as if it heard something.

BILFIX
 Bilfix is guessing this is a -

DARRYN
 Shh!

Everyone stops.

DARRYN (CONT'D)
 (still whispering)
 Yes. Just back away slowly. Slowly!

One step back.

DARRYN (CONT'D)
 And whatever you do...

Two steps back...

DARRYN (CONT'D)
 Don't say it's name.

The Koipu looks away, sniffing in a different direction.

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

As soon as she says the word, she wishes she hadn't. The Koipu rat creature looks directly at them and hisses!

DARRYN
 Oh nice job, bookworm! Run!

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

REVERSE as they burst through an opening in the swamp, one-by-one, only to tumble down a small hill to an open area below. The Koipu leaps down the hill

AT THE BOTTOM, the Koipu stands right in front of them now!

Trapped! The Koipu tries to walk towards them, but can't. He's stuck. Our crew tries to run, but they're also stuck.

BILFIX

Why can Bilfix not move his feet?

The Koipu starts howling. Not anger. Fear. It thrashes, trying to escape, but no luck.

JYNNY

What have you done now, Darryn?

DARRYN

Me? I'm not the one who -

AMARISA

The ground. Its moving.

The pinkish, green ground moves, slowly.

JYNNY

It's going into that cave.

In the near distance, there is, what appears to be, a cave. As we get closer we start to see that...

DARRYN

That's no cave.

The "ground" is being drawn into the "cave", but the cave is dripping with monster saliva and has two bulbous eyes.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

That's a Gutpaw.

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

It sucks them in and snaps shut, silencing all the screams.

The Gutpaw smiles, as much as a Gutpaw can, but that expression quickly changes. Gurgling sounds, followed by sounds of a struggle from inside the mouth. Then...

A sword SLICES through the creature's face, again and again, until finally, the giant head collapses. Dead.

A human hand appears through the cut in the head. Then another. Darryn crawls out of the head, covered in Gutpaw slime and Koipu guts. The rest of the crew follows.

AMARISA

Ugh! Gods, that's disgusting.

BILFIX

Bilfix agrees. It is gross.

JYNNY

Is there anything else in this swamp we should know about?

DARRYN

That about covers it. Oh, except for the...

Darryn suddenly sees they are surrounded by...

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Frog Riders.

SWAMP DWARFS (aka FROG RIDERS) are about five-feet tall, strong, and surprisingly quick. Also - insane. They have a blue-green tint to their skin and long, greenish beards. Their clothing is all plants and scales and bones.

The dwarfs sit on big, battle-scarred WAR FROGS. These frogs aren't cute or funny. They are tough and mean. One dwarf, BOGMINER, speaks up.

BOGMINER

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

Jynny goes for her sword. Another dwarf, STONEMARSH, levels his crossbow at her.

STONEMARSH

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

BOGMINER

And you, little gnome, try any of your tricks, and me frog will eat you. All of you.

BILFIX

Swamp Dwarfs! Pft!

He spits on the ground, but they all raise their hands.

BOGMINER

So what brings a crew like you out here to our end of the world?

DARRYN

Just the friendly people, really.

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

AMARISA

The Sword of Boldness.

This catches the dwarfs' attention.

STONEMARSH

Looking for the SoB, eh?

BOGMINER

And, tell me luv, why you's be wanting the SOB?

JYNNY

We're going to kill The Hammer.

BOGMINER

The Hammer, eh? Big broad, right?

JYNNY

Yes.

STONEMARSH

Lots of shite in her face, eh?

JYNNY

A lot.

BOGMINER

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

AMARISA

Listen you little swamp... people.. Do you know who this is?

She motions toward Darryn. He's uncharacteristically shy.

DARRYN

I'm sure they've never heard of me.

AMARISA

This is Darryn the Bold! He killed ten orcs with one swing.

The dwarfs take a closer look at Darryn.

DARRYN

That's really an exaggeration.

AMARISA

He survived for three span in the Frostlands wearing nothing but the skin of an Ice Bear.

DARRYN

It was a mild season. No big deal.

AMARISA

He killed the Great Red Dragon of Pondor!

DARRYN

That was so long ago. I barely remember it really.

BOGMINER

You? Darryn the Bold? The same Darryn what stole the Magic Mirror from the Witches of Miras?

Darryn shrugs nervously.

STONEMARSH

The same one what single-handedly held off the goblin attack at the city of Gulek?

Darryn smiles weakly. The dwarfs confer with each other.

BOGMINER

We heard you was dead.

Darryn shrugs as if to say, "Yeah, I was."

STONEMARSH

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

Darryn rolls his eyes. The two dwarfs nod to each other.

BOGMINER

Tie 'em up, eh?

STONEMARSH

Right you are.

StoneMarsh approaches with a rope.

EXT. SWAMP DWARF VILLAGE

The dwarfs lead the way, our heroes just behind, hands tied in front. Bilfix is blindfolded.

They pass more DWARF WARRIORS on their war frogs. One of them ribbits and licks Darryn as they walk by.

DARRYN

Ugh!

DWARF WARRIOR

I think she likes you, mate.

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

AMARISA

What's up with you?

DARRYN

Didn't your daddy ever tell you about the Swamp Dwarfs of Shako?

AMARISA

He never mentioned it.

BILFIX

Bilfix hates all dwarfs, and all dwarfs hate Swamp Dwarfs.

A dwarfy scream from WAY above, as a dwarf plummets from the canopy of the swamp. SPLASH! He crashes into a pool of water.

JYNNY

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

DARRYN

Fearlessness? They're insane.

JYNNY

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 dwarfs cheer.

AMARISA

Sounds like your kinda people.

DARRYN

The exact opposite of my people.

JYNNY

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

Another group of dwarfs. One stands, back to a tree, with a fruit on his head. Another dwarf, blindfolded, holds an axe.

Blindfolded dwarf spins around, tosses the ax. THUNK! It misses the fruit and takes the guy's ear off, just millimeters from his skull. EARLESS DWARF grabs his ear and LAUGHS. The other dwarf removes the blindfold and curses.

EARLESS DWARF

Ha! I knew you couldn't do it!

AMARISA

Stupider than that?

They stop in the

SWAMP DWARF VILLAGE - THRONE AREA

The Swamp Dwarf chief - SKUNKBEARD, 60 in human years, wild eyes, long, black and white beard - sits in his swamp throne.

Bogminer whispers something to him. Skunkbeard smiles.

SKUNKBEARD

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

DARRYN

Yep. That's me.

Skunkbeard leans back, stroking his skunky beard.

SKUNKBEARD

And now you've come to our home and want to take the Sword of Boldness?

DARRYN

Well, if you're not using it...

SKUNKBEARD

It's been a long time since an outsider has come here.

BILFIX

Do you got the sword or not, dwarf?

Skunkbeard spits on the ground.

SKUNKBEARD

A Fog Gnome? I oughta cut off your head right now you lying little-

BILFIX

Why don't you take this blindfold off and we'll see who's little -

JYNNY

Chief Skunkbeard, please. We need The Sword to stop The Hammer.

SKUNKBEARD

The Sword is not mine to give. We guard the swamp. Mardin guards The Sword.

DARRYN

Mardin? Who's that?

SKUNKBEARD

You have no idea what you're getting into, do you?

JYNNY

Gods, do you ever listen? Mardin is the beast that guards The Sword.

DARRYN

Beast? You didn't say anything about a beast.

AMARISA

Actually, I said that a few times.

SKUNKBEARD

Mardin lives deep under the swamp. Nothing can kill him.

JYNNY

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

Skunkbeard looks at her, hard. Jynny steps forward.

DARRYN

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

SKUNKBEARD

Are you calling me a coward, woman?

Jynny shrugs, meets his gaze.

JYNNY

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

Mumblings from the dwarfs, eyes turn to Skunkbeard.

DARRYN

I just want to jump in here and say that that is not at all what I'm -

JYNNY

Paceran.

Darryn grits his teeth. Everyone, everything, goes completely quiet. Even the swamp animals are listening. Then...

AMARISA

Uhm... What's Paceran?

DARRYN

Oh, just an ancient Swamp Dwarf challenge that can't be refused.

Jynny and Skunkbeard continue their stare down.

JYNNY

For The Sword.

Skunkbeard's eyes light up.

SKUNKBEARD

Paceran. I accept.

The drums start back up. The dwarfs cheer. It's a Paceran!

EXT. SWAMP DWARF VILLAGE - CELL

Dwarfs light fires, play war drums, and prepare for the challenge. Darryn bangs his head against the bars.

DARRYN

Paceran. Really? That's what you decided to go with?

JYNNY

I didn't see you with any ideas.

DARRYN

I had a great idea. My idea was to run away!

AMARISA

C'mon Darryn. Everything I've read - you're brave. Courageous. Bold. You've got this.

DARRYN

Look, girl, this ain't one of your books, ok? This is the real world.

AMARISA

But this is what you do.

DARRYN

Save missing fathers for free? Get mixed up on the wrong side of a revolution? No. Those are not things I do. What I do is drink heavily. What I do is spend what little money I have on unattractive women. And you know what? Charity and lost causes don't pay for that.

AMARISA

If you don't care, then why did you help me at the inn? Why did you fight the Hammer's soliders? Why did you save us from the Gutpaw?

DARRYN

Just because I don't want to see you get stabbed or eaten or sacrificed to some dark lord, doesn't mean I care about you. Since you showed up, I've been punched, kicked, thrown through a wall! I was nearly killed by a sexy, desert woman! Ok, that part wasn't so bad. But I was almost eaten. Plus she's back in my life!

JYNNY

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

DARRYN

That's right. Me! Me! And me! I'm not interested in dying again.

AMARISA

Do you know why I picked you?

DARRYN

Yes! I get it, ok? Because no one else would do it!

AMARISA

Yes! Because no one else would do it! You know why? Because The Hammer's friggin' scary man! Her whole rep is built on the fact that she killed you!

DARRYN

Yeah. That's pretty true, I guess.

AMARISA

Look maybe I don't know anything except books, ok? I haven't been on a hundred quests and rescued a thousand princesses, but even I know who Darryn the Bold is. Every knight and mercenary and farmboy wishes they could be you.

They lock eyes.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

And I know this. She might not say it, but that woman over there, she's not here because of your great body or that big pile of gold you got back at your castle. She's here in this miserable swamp because somehow, some way, for some reason, she still believes in you.

Jynny neither confirms nor denies this.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

And so do I. I picked you because it has to be you. Only you can get this sword and get my father back.

Darryn sighs.

DARRYN

Look - I don't think I can do it.

AMARISA

Of course you can do it. You're Darryn the Bold.

DARRYN

Darryn the Bold died. And this
Darryn is - afraid.

AMARISA

You overcame death. What else is
there to be afraid of?

DARRYN

I didn't overcome death. I got
brought back to life by a guy I'd
never seen before. I don't even
know why. And The Hammer - she
killed me once. I can't beat her.

AMARISA

She killed you because cheated, and
you still almost beat her. She -

DARRYN

She has no fear. I saw her: She was
ready to die. But I wasn't ready
then, and I'm not ready now. I
squandered my life on stupid quests
and parties and women, and I've
made the same mistakes since coming
back. I haven't learned. I'm
nothing but a coward. A failure.

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 died, but you're here. Now. And
that means something.

Stonemarsh and Bogminer open the cell door.

BOGMINER

Oy! Fatman. It's time.

Darryn walks toward the door, stops.

DARRYN

I need to ask you something.
Something I should have asked years
ago. If things had been different
back then, would you... Do you
think you could have ever...

JYNNY

What?

DARRYN

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 have ever
gotten into a threeway with me and
the Thonyzian cat woman?

He - sincerely wondering. She - no words.

JYNNY

You - I - OH GAWHDS! Just- Just
focus on The Sword, ok?

DARRYN

Right..... Right.

BogMiner escorts him out of the cage, toward the ceremony.

BOGMINER

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

EXT. SWAMP - SWAMP POOL - NIGHT

Tribal drums beating. Fires burning. Darryn and Skunkbeard
wait for a DWARF PRIESTESS to start the ceremony. Skunkbeard
is covered in tribal painting. Darryn is - well - Darryn.

The priestess raises her arms and everything gets quiet.

DWARF PRIESTESS

Oy! Listen up, eh? Here's the deal:
The Fatman has challenged
Skunkbeard for The Sword of
Boldness. Skunkbeard has accepted.

DARRYN
Darryn. My name is Darryn.

DWARF PRIESTESS (CONT'D)
They'll dive into the Dark
Lake, and one of 'em will
come back with The Sword.
That one is the winner. The
other? Better not come back,
amirite?

The Dwarfs cheer their dwarfy hearts out. Amarisa, Jynny, and
Bilfix stand nearby, just slightly worried.

BILFIX
Bilfix thinks this was a bad idea.

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

DWARF PRIESTESS
Skunkbeard. Is you ready?

SKUNKBEARD
Oy!

DWARF PRIESTESS
Fatman. Is you ready?

DARRYN
Could you please just stop with -

DWARF PRIESTESS
Go!

Skunkbeard runs, dives into the lake. Jynny approaches.

JYNNY
Look, Darryn, this sword, its' not
like other swords. It's -

DARRYN
Jynny, I'm trying to focus.

JYNNY
And remember: It's guarded by a
creature named Mardin. You'll be
fine as long as you don't -

DARRYN
I know how to get swords. I know
how to kill creatures. I got this.

He walks toward the lake, leaving Jynny behind, and, for a
moment, is alone. He says the words like a mantra.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Ok, D, Time to get serious. You've killed dragons. Orcs. Trolls. On the other side of that sword is a barrel of beer and a bevy of beautiful women. Let's do this!

He runs into the swamp.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Oh my gods, that's cold!

He dives in.

UNDERWATER

Swamp creatures dart through the swamp. Skunkbeard's feet disappear deeper into the darkness. Darryn follows him down.

AMARISA (V.O.)

What are they doing down there?

JYNNY (V.O.)

First, they'll swim through the upper levels of the Dark Lake in pitch blackness.

Pitch blackness. Some of those fish with the lights swim by giving us glimpses of Darryn.

JYNNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The dark. The cold. The distance. That alone would kill most men. But if they make it to the lower levels, they say the Dark Lake becomes a clear blue. Beautiful.

Darryn swims on, the blackness suddenly giving way to an

UNDERWATER TRENCH

The water here is a CRYSTAL-CLEAR RAINBOW OF COLORS. Neon sponges glow. Sparkling creatures swim about. The cliffs on either side of Darryn radiate different colors.

JYNNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Home to amazing creatures.

Literal SEA-HORSES (like mermaids, but instead of beautiful women on top, it's a horse) swim merrily about.

JYNNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But also some terrible ones. Like the Living Swamp-Weed...

As Darryn watches the Sea-Horses, an innocuous-looking vine suddenly GRABS his wrist. SLICE! He cuts it away.

JYNNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...And the swamp prowlers.

Darryn swims away from the Swamp-Weed, as yellow eyes stare out at him from small holes.

AMARISA (V.O.)
Swamp Prowlers?

A SWAMP PROWLER - a long barracuda-like creature with pointy tusks and long tendrils on its head - darts out of a hole. They swim about Darryn, just missing him.

JYNNY (V.O.)
Fast. Big teeth. They eat their
prey one bite at a time.

A swamp prowler whips one of his tendrils toward Darryn. Darryn slashes and the prowler screeches in agony.

Nearby, Skunkbeard fights his own prowlers. He stabs one. He punches another in the face!

Another prowler latches on to Darryn with its big teeth. Darryn screams, but under water, no one can hear you scream. He cuts the prowler away, little globs of blood trailing him.

The prowlers have stopped, for now.

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

Skunkbeard stands on the swamp floor, on the edge of a deep, black hole. Darryn swims down, stands opposite from him.

AMARISA (V.O.)
How long can Swamp Dwarfs hold
their breath?

Skunkbeard smiles, dives into the hole.

JYNNY (V.O.)
A long time.

Darryn's eyes get big. Really?

AMARISA (V.O.)
And Darryn?

He dives, following Skunkbeard.

JYNNY (V.O.)
I don't know.

Darryn swims, swims, until... darkness.

INT. UNDERGROUND SWAMP CAVE - POND

A tiny pond on one edge. Quiet. Nothing. Until...

Darryn's head pops out of the water. He coughs and sputters, desperately taking in air, as he crawls out of the lake.

DARRYN
Gods, that's far.

Darryn looks ahead. Skunkbeard runs into the darkness.

DARRYN (CONT'D)
Are you... Really?

Darryn starts to run. Well, run for him.

JYNNY (V.O.)
That's when things really get interesting.

Reverse on the darkness, until Darryn appears and stops, hands on his knees. He looks up, shocked.

DARRYN
Ho-lee sh...

JYNNY (V.O.)
Mardin's lair. They say it's huge and full of treasure.

INT. UNDERGROUND SWAMP CAVE - MARDIN'S LAIR

The cave is huge and full of treasure. Whatever isn't covered by gold coins or precious stones or magic weapons is covered by water, from a few inches to deep pools. Natural pathways allow Darryn to walk between them.

MARDIN'S LAIR - DEEP UNDERWATER

In the murky depths, more piles of treasure. One of those piles moves, revealing a black scaly eyelid that opens to reveal a menacing eyeball.

MARDIN'S LAIR - ABOVE THE WATER

Darryn sees Skunkbeard digging through gold.

DARRYN
So this is it, huh?

SKUNKBEARD
Shh! Are you trying to get us killed? Aye, this is it. Just a handful of this would make you richer than all the kings combined.

DARRYN
What's this sword look like?

SKUNKBEARD
Like I would tell you.

DARRYN
You don't know do you?

SKUNKBEARD
Aren't you the one with the sword experts?

Darryn stops. That had never occurred to him.

DARRYN
Fair enough.

They dig.

DARRYN (CONT'D)
How'd all this get here?

SKUNKBEARD
Mardin loves the shiny, almost as much as he loves - what's that?

Skunkbeard sees the wound on Darryn's side.

DARRYN
Huh? Oh, it's nothing. A scratch.

Skunkbeard starts throwing piles of treasure, more frantic.

DARRYN (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

SKUNKBEARD
Don't you know anything about anything? The only thing Mardin loves more than gold is...

SPLASH! CRASH! MARDIN, emerges from the depths and lands hard, shaking the ground.

Mardin has the shell of a turtle and TWO HEADS. Each head has the face of a bearded dragon with huge antlers coming out of his head. Weapons and treasure stick to his shell. One head is more scarred than the other.

SKUNKBEARD (CONT'D)

Blood.

The beast's teeth are much too close for comfort.

DARRYN

We should run.

SKUNKBEARD

Aye. Good idea.

MARDIN's heads release an eardrum-crushing roar as they run!

DARRYN

I thought Swamp Dwarfs weren't afraid of anything.

SKUNKBEARD

That's not anything! That's Mardin!

SNAP! The huge jaws close, just missing the two. The shockwave sends them flying into the treasure piles.

Mardin's voice is deep, dark, and full reverb.

MARDIN HEAD 1

Who dares enter our chambers?

He stops. Each head takes in a huge whiff of air.

MARDIN HEAD 2

Dwarf. Ugh. We grow so tired of eating dwarf.

Darryn and Skunkbeard hide behind a pile of treasure, as the two heads scan the area.

MARDIN HEAD 1

But there's something else.
Something we haven't smelled in a long time.

Nostrils flare as he takes a deep inhale.

MARDIN HEAD 2

Man. And it smells... terrible.

Skunkbeard looks at Darryn.

SKUNKBEARD
He's not wrong, mate.

Mardin's heads intertwine, and he disappears into a pool of water. Darryn and Skunk hide again, breathing hard.

SKUNKBEARD (CONT'D)
How could you be so stupid?

DARRYN
Me? How was I supposed to know this thing could smell blood? You didn't exactly prep me on the way down.

Mardin leaps out of the water, lands with a crash. His heads are sniffing, but haven't found them yet.

DARRYN (CONT'D)
What do we do now?

SKUNKBEARD
We kill it.

Darryn holds up the tiny dagger he swam down with.

DARRYN
With these things?

SKUNKBEARD
No. With that.

Skunk grabs a shiny battle axe from a nearby treasure pile.

SKUNKBEARD (CONT'D)
Oy! You two! Smell this!

With a mighty dwarf warcry, Skunk leaps into air, lands on one of Mardin's snouts, and brings the axe down hard.

It has little effect. Mardin swings his head back and forth. Skunk tries to hold on, but he's soon sent FLYING.

Darryn looks around for something. Anything! He sees it - a BEAUTIFUL, GLOWING SWORD. Jewels in the hilt. Razor sharp. Even if you're not a fan of swords, you'd like this sword.

DARRYN
Yes. I've got you now.

Darryn grabs the sword and charges at Mardin! He brings it down hard on the beast's shell. The sword shatters.

DARRYN (CONT'D)
Oh no. Nononononononono.

With a flick of his tail, Mardin launches Darryn across the cave. THUD! Darryn crashes into the rock.

Mardin dives back into the water, comes out again in another part of the cave. Darryn crawls away and hides again.

MARDIN HEAD 1

You tiny creatures. You only exist
because we allow it.

Mardin swings one of his massive heads across the pile of treasure. Darryn ducks and rolls down a hill of gold.

MARDIN HEAD 2

We feel your breath. We hear your
heart.

MARDIN HEAD 1

We smell your fear.

Breathing hard now, something catches Darryn's eye. Catches his eye because it's so out of place: A very plain, blue-collar type of sword. Just a hilt and some very sharp steel.

Treasure slides and shifts, but that sword stays in place.

DARRYN

You're a plain, old thing. Like
nothing else in here. I'd say
that's pretty bold.

Darryn runs and grabs the sword. He holds it and gives it a few good practice swings. It feels good. Right. BOLD.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Oh. Oh my. Oh, yeah. This is nice.

Mardin turns, sees Darryn with The Sword.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Ok, Mardin. What do you smell now?

ROAR! Mardin charges. Darryn charges right back.

Mardin's scarred head opens its huge jaws, and Darryn stabs The Sword right into the roof of his mouth.

The monster screams in pain! Darryn is reinvigorated. This is some real hero stuff!

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Do you know who I am, beast? Do you
know the name of the man who struck
fear into your heart?

(MORE)

DARRYN (CONT'D)

I'm Darryn The Bold! I killed the Death-Lion of Doshana. I foundd the magic orb of Kron. I slayed the Great Red -

MARDIN

Ugh. We hate your endless noise!

Darryn charges again, slashing the sword across one of the monster's eyes! Mardin screams in pain. Hurt now, he leaps into a nearby pool to recover.

Darryn holds The Sword. He's got what he came for.

Nearby, Skunkbeard leans back on a pile of coins, holding his ribcage. Labored breathing. He's hurt.

SKUNKBEARD

That's The Sword, eh?

Darryn sheathes The Sword and leans down next to Skunk.

DARRYN

That's it. Can you move?

Skunk shakes his head.

SKUNKBEARD

In Paceran, there can only be one winner. Take the sword and get out of here before Mardin comes back.

Darryn looks toward the cave's exit. A deep RUMBLE. Mardin is regrouping. It'd be so easy to just leave Skunk down here...

Darryn reaches down, picks up Skunk.

SKUNKBEARD (CONT'D)

What are you doing, you idiot?
You'll never make it.

DARRYN

You know, you're not the first person to tell me that.

Darryn stops on the edge of the pool, leading back to the surface. Mardin appears behind them and roars again!

DARRYN (CONT'D)

C'mon on, old man. Let's go!

Darryn jumps into the water, dragging Skunkbeard with him.

UNDERWATER TRENCH

Reverse on the dark hole they jumped into earlier.

It's calm, quiet. The Prowlers sit in their holes, eyes glowing. BOOM! Darryn bursts through with Skunkbeard, swimming like their lives depend on it (which they do).

Hot on their trail - Mardin shatters the entrance.

Darryn is swimming, swimming, swimming...

Mardin is following, like a missile through the water, gaining on Darryn. Darryn's too slow, even without Skunkbeard. This is it. He's not going to make it.

ZOOM! A shape flies between Darryn and Mardin. ZOOM AGAIN! Another shape. And another. A herd of sea-horses swims by, distracting Mardin.

A sea-horse swims up to Darryn. He grabs on and takes off.

EXT. SWAMP DWARF VILLAGE.

It's quiet. Everyone waiting.

AMARISA

Hey, Jynny, question: If no one's ever come back from Mardin's lair, how do you know all of that stuff?

JYNNY

Oh that's because - Look!

A horse head appears out of the water. Then Darryn with Skunk. Amarisa and Jynny run to them. The horse dives away.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

Darryn! What happened? Are you ok?

DARRYN

We...got...to...get out...of-

CRASH! An explosion of water and rock and trees as Mardin launches himself out of the depths, the sea-horse carcass split between his two mouths.

Darryn hands Skunkbeard over to the ladies.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Take him, and get out of here.

JYNNY

Darryn! You can't beat that thing!

AMARISA
Darryn, wait!

Darryn stops, looks at Amarisa, and smiles.

DARRYN
I got The Sword, and we're gonna
get your father. Right after I kill
this thing.

They run for safety. Darryn turns to Mardin.

DARRYN (CONT'D)
Oh man, I used to have so many
clever lines for these situations.

MARDIN
I'll just have to listen to the
crunching of your bones instead.

Darryn holds the Sword of Boldness high, screams at the top
of his lungs, and knee-slides under Mardin, slicing the beast
down his belly, right between the two heads.

Mardin stumbles, tries to turn, but, instead, CRASHES to the
ground. Darryn appears, proudly climbing up the back of the
creature until he reaches the heads.

STAB! Darryn thrusts The Sword straight down between Mardin's
eyeballs. STAB AGAIN! In the other head. Mardin is dead.

Darryn holds THE SWORD OF BOLDNESS high.

DARRYN
I got it.

AMARISA
He got it.

BILFIX
He got it.

JYNNY
He actually got it.

Skunkbeard pulls himself to his feet and walks to Darryn,
where he falls to one knee.

SKUNKBEARD
You have bested me in the Paceran.
The Dwarfs of the Swamp are at your
command, Chief Darryn The Bold.

Amidst the destruction of the swamp, the Swamp Dwarfs all bow
in humble respect. Things look good.

SERIES OF SHOTS - RETURNING HOME

A) Desert - Night. Darryn and Amarisa reading thick books. They smile at each other. Reveal inside Darryn's book: a medieval girly pinup magazine.

B) Snowy Mountains - Darryn pushes them through the blizzard.

C) Plains - Darryn, Jynny, and Amarisa practice sword forms. Amarisa's getting good.

D) Forest - Finally back in the green forest.

EXT. REBEL FOREST - EDGE OF REBEL CAMP - DAY

The crew rides happily through the forest

DARRYN

...and that, my friends, is why you never milk a unicorn.

AMARISA

Darryn that's so stu- What's that?

Dark smoke in the distance.

JYNNY

Our camp!

EXT. REBEL CAMP

Fire. Smoke. Bodies. The camp has been destroyed.

JYNNY

What? How could this-

One of the rebels, LEN, still lives. Barely.

JYNNY (CONT'D)

Len! What happened?

LEN THE REBEL

General, we tried to stop her.

JYNNY

You're going to be ok.

LEN THE REBEL

We still have this.

Len hands Jynny a scrap of something.

LEN THE REBEL (CONT'D)

General, promise you'll stop her.

JYNKY

Len. Len!

Len dies in her arms.

OFFSCREEN a slow, mocking clap. Out of the shadows, a huge, looming Hammer-shaped figure takes shape, surrounded by soldiers and Skull Woman.

THE HAMMER

You made it. A little late. But better than never.

Jynny starts for The Hammer, but Darryn holds her back.

JYNKY

She's killed everyone.

DARRYN

You being dead too won't help.

It's been a while since Darryn and The Hammer have met. She looks better - in a more evil way. Bigger. Meaner. More Hammer-y. Darryn draws the SOB.

THE HAMMER

Darryn The Bold and The Sword of Boldness. That's cute.

DARRYN

Hammer.

THE HAMMER

And here I was afraid that you might have forgotten me.

DARRYN

I remember you. You killed me.

THE HAMMER

I did, didn't I? But don't take it personally. I kill a lot of people.

She eyes the sword.

THE HAMMER (CONT'D)

But no one has to die today. At least, no one else. How about you just give me The Sword?

DARRYN

If you want it, come and take it.

Our crew is hot and ready to fight, but severely outnumbered.

THE HAMMER

Darryn, always the tough guy. Fine.

The Hammer snaps her fingers and BAMF! Bilfix is right in front of Darryn. KICK! Darryn takes a shot between the legs. Bilfix grabs The Sword and BAMF! He's gone again, now in front of The Hammer. He bows and holds The Sword to her.

JYNNY

Bilfix! What? Why?

BILFIX

Bilfix says the rebels pay is lousy. The Hammer pays much better.

THE HAMMER

Playing general out here in the forest, but you don't know the first rule of combat.

Bilfix is pleased with himself. The Hammer admires The Sword. SLICE! Down hard on little, untrustworthy Bilfix. Dead.

THE HAMMER (CONT'D)

Never trust a Fog Gnome.

The Hammer kicks Bilfix's body away.

THE HAMMER (CONT'D)

Darryn, why are you even here? You're old. You're fat. You're outdated. I'm the future.

Our crew stands back to back to back.

JYNNY

She can't get away with this.

DARRYN

She won't, but, right now, she has the numbers and The Sword. You know a way out of here?

The three back away into the forest.

SKULL WOMAN

Send the men after them.

THE HAMMER

Do you think a woman, a little girl, and a fat loser pose a threat? We have what we want. Besides, I'm restless. Let's see what this thing can do.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Our crew sits in darkness. Hiding.

AMARISA

We don't have The Sword. We don't have my father. The rebels are - are - What are we going to do?

No response. Darryn takes a drink.

RYN THE RAT DRUNK (O.S.)

Feelin' sorry for yourself again?

The Ghost Drunks walk out of the forest.

DARRYN

Oh gods! Not you guys again.

Amarisa looks up. Who is he talking to?

AMARISA

Uh, Darryn?

They ignore her.

KYN THE CAT DRUNK

Have you always felt so sorry for yourself? I feel like you used to be more fun.

DARRYN

More fun? I should have just stayed in the bar with you guys.

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

You still don't get it, do you?

DARRYN

No, I did get it. I went through the desert. I swam through the muck. I killed the weird turtle-dragon thing. And I got The Sword. I did it, and it didn't matter.

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

You still think this is about you.

KYN THE CAT DRUNK

You don't even realize that that is what's holding you back.

DARRYN

And you say I used to be more fun.

AMARISA

Are you ok?

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

Donald, if all you want is The Sword, fine. Go get it. Use the map the rebel gave you, and go in through the underground tunnels.

KYN THE RAT DRUNK

But it's not The Sword that's gonna beat The Hammer, Darryn.

The drunk ghosts disappears back into the forest.

DARRYN

You guys were dumb when you were alive. Now you're just - hey wait! What did you say?

JYNNY

Who are you talking to?

DARRYN

You still have that map?

She hands him the scrap from Len.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

We got The Sword once. We can do it again. Look at this.

As he talks, we transition to

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HAMMER'S CASTLE - NIGHT

Dark, foreboding, sitting on an ocean-side cliff, it's the HAMMER'S HQ. A shadowy figure runs from cover to cover.

DARRYN (V.O.)

It's a map of The Hammer's castle and guess what it has?

JYNNY (V.O.)

Secret tunnels.

DARRYN (V.O.)

No. Secret tunnels. Wait. How did you know that?

JYNNY (V.O.)

I looked at the map while you were drinking.

The shadowy figure arrives at a grate in the castle's walls.

DARRYN (V.O.)
Every castle has them. Kings use
them to escape if attacked.

A rusty grate leads to the tunnels under the castle.

DARRYN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I've done it a hundred times. I'll
sneak in through the tunnels, get
The Sword, get dad, stop the
ritual, and kill The Hammer.

The shadowy, Darryn-shaped figure kicks in the grate.

DARRYN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Is that it? Did I get everything? I
feel like I should make a list.

JYNNY (V.O.)
I'm coming with you.

DARRYN (V.O.)
No. We're gonna need help. I want
you to lead the frontal attack.

AMARISA (V.O.)
I'm coming with you.

DARRYN (V.O.)
No way. This is no place for kids.

Darryn is about to go in the tunnel, when another, smaller,
figure runs out of the shadows. It's Amarisa.

AMARISA (V.O.)
I'm coming. He's my father.

Amarisa catches up before Darryn can leave her outside. She
punches him in the arm, as they enter the tunnel.

DARRYN (V.O.)
Fine. But do exactly what I say.

INT. HAMMER CASTLE - SECRET UNDERGROUND TUNNELS

Dirty, wet. Real movie sewer-y. Oozing stalactites hang down
from the ceiling. Darryn lights a torch and checks the map.

DARRYN
Ok, we follow this path and we end
up in the castle. Pretty easy.

Darryn puts the map away, pulls out a sword.

AMARISA

Why am I starting to feel like this was a bad idea?

DARRYN

Don't worry; that's normal anytime you go on a quest with me.

With that, Darryn stops. Noise up ahead. Torch light glows from around the corner. Someone is coming. Darryn motions for Amarisa to put out her torch. She does.

HAMMER SOLDIER REGGY (O.S.)

Why is it we have to be down here?

HAMMER SOLIDER STYVE (O.S.)

Because this is the weakest part of the castle. If someone were to sneak in, it'd be this way.

HAMMER SOLDIER REGGY (O.S.)

Sure, I get that. But why do we have to be down here?

Two HAMMER SOLDIERS appear, torches in hand.

HAMMER SOLDIER REGGY (CONT'D)

All I'm saying is that I have skills that are going unnoticed. Land navigation skills. Animal husbandry skills. Coopering skills.

HAMMER SOLIDER STYVE

Coopering skills? You wanna make barrels your whole life?

HAMMER SOLIDER REGGY

Better 'en walking around down here in this slime, ain't it?

HAMMER SOLIDER STYVE

Who knows? Maybe you do a good job down here, you get promoted to head barrel maker one day.

HAMMER SOLDIER REGGY

You think that's how it works? My father worked for The Hammer for over 10 years, and do you think he got promoted? No - she just cut his head off and put it on a spike.

HAMMER SOLIDER STYVE
 You think this is my dream job,
 walking around down here in the
 dark and the filth? No, but it's
 steady work, and in these uncertain
 times, that's the best we can ask-

Out of the darkness, the whites of Darryn's eyes appear.
 Styve's eyes go big as a sword is rammed through his gut.

Amarisa steps out of the shadows.

HAMMER SOLDIER REGGY
 Hey, you're not supposed to be -

Darryn runs him through. He's also dead.

DARRYN
 Did Jynny mention guards down here?

Amarisa shakes her head no.

AMARISA
 I wonder what else is down here
 that we don't know about.

On cue, a stalactite flattens itself out and oozes across the
 ceiling of the sewer, following just behind our heroes.

They TURN THE CORNER, walking as they talk.

AMARISA (CONT'D)
 Darryn? There's something you
 should know about my father. He's a
 little different from me.

DARRYN
 Uh, yeah. He's a guy. He's old.

AMARISA
 What I mean is, I'm adopted and he-

DARRYN
 I should tell you something too. If
 we're being completely honest here,
 I really haven't been myself since
 the whole head smashing thing.

AMARISA
 Yeah, I know. But my dad, he's -

DARRYN

But I feel like this quest, it
could be the most important quest
I've ever been on. At least top 3.

As Darryn, rambles on, the flat stalactite oozes across the ceiling, until it DROPS on Amarisa! A black squid-like creature with glowing red eyes and webbing between each tentacle, silently envelopes the girl's torso.

Amarisa twists and turns, but she can't break free.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

The dragon thing was really cool.
So was that time with the troll.
It's hard to choose. What do you
think, Amarisa? Amarisa? Amarisa!

Darryn finally turns to see Amarisa flailing, the weird, sewery squid creature trying to devour her whole.

He raises his sword. Muffled screams from Amarisa that sound almost like "No you idiot! Don't do that! I'm still in here!"

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Right. Bad idea.

Is there a better idea? The torches! He lights the squid-thing on fire. It screams, releasing Amarisa.

The squid creature leaps into the sewer, but Darryn steps on its last slimy tentacle. It squirms and flails until Darryn jams the sword into its squishy head.

Amarisa is covered in mucous and who-knows-what else, but, otherwise, she's fine.

AMARISA

Ugh! What was that thing?

DARRYN

Sewer squid. I haven't seen one of
those in years. You're lucky it
didn't digest you whole.

Meanwhile...

EXT. THE VERY TOP OF THE HAMMER'S CASTLE - NIGHT

High in the sky, a stony platform big enough to land a dragon on, with a full moon so close, you can almost touch it.

Soldiers chain a hooded figure to a post while The Hammer and Skull Woman watch. The Hammer spins The Sword around, bored.

THE HAMMER
How much longer now?

Skull Woman looks to the full moon.

SKULL WOMAN
Soon.

THE HAMMER
Good. I tire of this waiting. What
of our friend down below?

SKULL WOMAN
He's overcome everything so far.

THE HAMMER
Send the men down to meet him.

A HAMMER SOLDIER LEADER and men run out of the room.

SKULL WOMAN
You don't take him seriously.

THE HAMMER
If you wanted to be The Hammer,
sister, than you should have made
yourself The Hammer. Instead, you
decided to become the nail.

SKULL WOMAN
How long have you been waiting to
say that one?

They stare each other down.

THE HAMMER
Keep your focus on the ceremony.
I'll take care of Darryn.

BACK IN THE SECRET UNDERGROUND TUNNELS

Darryn and Amarisa stand on the other side of another grate.

DARRYN
There's gonna be a few bad guys out
there. You ready?

AMARISA
Of course I'm ready. Let's do this.
Time to get serious, right?

She is not ready. Visibly nervous. Darryn notices.

DARRYN

You don't have some snappy quote from one of your books?

AMARISA

Sure. It's like when - It's like - I don't know. Darryn, we don't have The Sword. My father, he's -

DARRYN

The deck is stacked against us, but it's like my old gambling buddy used to say: The secret to life is playing the hand you're dealt like it's the hand you wanted.

AMARISA

That's actually pretty good.

DARRYN

Or was it, "If I catch you cheating again, I'll break your hands"? Anyway, the point is: We got this.

Darryn holds his fist out for bumping. Is this some sort of mature, big-brother-like gesture? Yes, it is.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Hey. You know what time it is?

AMARISA

Time to get serious?

DARRYN

You know it.

There is much bumping of fists. Darryn kicks the grate.

EXT. HAMMER CASTLE - INSIDE THE CASTLE WALLS

Reverse on the grate. It shakes with each kick until...

PTANG! It flies open. Our two heroes emerge, ready to fight. Opposite them are the HAMMER SOLDIER LEADER and soldiers.

HAMMER SOLDIER LEADER

Well, well, look who it is.

Many soldiers surround Darryn and Amarisa.

AMARISA

I thought you said a few soldiers?

DARRYN

Few is such a relative term.

The soldiers laugh and gurgle as they close in for the kill.

HAMMER SOLDIER LEADER

I'm going to enjoy killing you.

AMARISA

Darryn, I just want to tell you -

DARRYN

No way, girl. I'm willing to die in a lot of ways. Head smashed in by a giant hammer? Debatable. Stabbed in the back during a drunken card game? Acceptable. Massaged to death by nude women? Preferable. But I will not be the guy who was killed by some nameless lackeys.

HAMMER SOLDIER LEADER

Well, then allow me to introduce myself. My name is -

BOOM! A loud crash from somewhere. The soldiers stop, look to each other. BOOM! Again. The sound is coming from

THE CASTLE GATES

Another BOOM as something hits the gates from the outside. BOOM! A huge WAR FROG bursts through, SKUNKBEARD on his back.

SKUNKBEARD

'alho lads. We heard there was gonna be a fight.

More Frog Riders burst through the gate, followed by Jynny on her own frog. Other Frog Riders LEAP OVER the castle's walls.

How'd they get here so fast from the other side of the world? They're giant frogs! They can jump really far.

DARRYN

I never thought I'd be so happy to see a giant frog.

Jynny joins Skunkbeard near the front.

JYNNY

Darryn, go. We'll handle this.

DARRYN

I'm not leaving you here.

A soldier attacks, but Jynny's frog grabs him with his tongue and lobs the soldier into the distance.

JYNNY

I'll be ok. Trust me.

Darryn nods his respect and quickly slashes his way through more bad guys and into the castle. Amarisa follows, getting in on some bad-guy hacking action herself.

Frog Riders battle the soldiers as Darryn and Amarisa move...

INT. HAMMER CASTLE - HALLS

Dark, sparse. The only light from the glow of the full moon. More soldiers charge from the opposite end of the hall.

Darryn and Amarisa use their swords and anything else they can find to fight. Amarisa holds her own. Impressive.

DARRYN

You learned fast girl.

AMARISA

Well, I had some good teachers. Plus, while you were drinking, I read Deveaux's "Secret Rules of Duels and Swordplay."

DARRYN

I don't even know what that is.

Darryn leads the way as they fight their way

UP A SET OF STONE STAIRS.

The staircase wraps around, going up and up, as more bad guys appear. Darryn ducks, cuts, and tosses them down. Other soldiers show up behind. Amarisa slashes at those.

Our heroes stand back-to-back when a BIG SOLDIER with a big mace runs down the stairs towards Darryn. He's not The Hammer big, but he's still large.

Big Soldier swings! Darryn ducks, the mace leaving a huge hole in the wall, stone pieces crumbling down below.

Darryn swings at Big Soldier, who dodges, and swings again. His mace CRASHES into the staircase, leaving a big gap.

AMARISA

How's it going over there?

DARRYN
Never better.

Amarisa steps into the gap, teetering just above the darkness, until Darryn GRABS her at the last second! He swings her around, so that she is now in front of him.

Darryn and Amarisa TEMPORARILY SWITCH POSITIONS. Darryn's fighting the soldiers behind while Amarisa is busy with Big Man. He raises his mace high above his head.

AMARISA
Oh. My. Gods.

Don't think, just STAB! Her sword goes right into his gut. The mace falls out of his hands, down to the floor below.

Amarisa draws her sword out as Darryn swings her back around. Now, he's in front, facing Big Man, and she's behind.

DARRYN
Don't worry, I'll handle this - oh!

Darryn sees the hole in Big Man's chest, but he's not dead. Just angry. Very angry.

DARRYN (CONT'D)
That's the trouble with you big guys. You never want to dieeee!

Big Man grabs Darryn by the neck and swings him around, He's dangling high over the ground below. It's a long way down.

AMARISA
Let him go!

Amarisa hacks at Big Man.

DARRYN
No! No! Don't let me go!

Amarisa hits him to no effect. Big Man takes one hand off of Darryn and uses it to defend against Amarisa's sword.

He gets an idea. Big Man releases his grip, but Darryn GRABS on to the big arm and SWINGS back to the staircase. The momentum sends Big Man TUMBLING OVER THE EDGE. SPLAT!

AMARISA
Looks like you have a thing for driving people over the edge.

Darryn smiles. Amarisa shrugs. They continue up the stairs.

EXT. HAMMER CASTLE TOP - NIGHT

The hooded figure is chained in a circle of occult symbols. The Hammer holds the Sword of Boldness high, while Skull Woman invokes the ancient ritual. The full moon is bright and in perfect alignment.

Only, something's not quite working. There's nothing but the faintest glow from the sword, a light misting of rain.

THE HAMMER

Why?! Why is it not working?

SKULL WOMAN

Patience, sister, patience.

THE HAMMER

Perhaps it is not more patience I require, but a more skilled Summoner.

HOODED FIGURE

I have told you: I do not have the power for this ritual.

SKULL WOMAN

Silence old man! If we have to -

Fighting sounds. The Hammer and Skull Woman turn toward a

DARK ENTRYWAY TO THE CASTLE

where soldiers run toward us. A final soldier is cut down by DARRYN THE FRIGGIN' BOLD and AMARISA.

DARRYN

Hello, Hammer.

Darryn's looking good. Confident. Has he lost weight?

DARRYN (CONT'D)

You look different. Did you do something with your hair? No, that's not it. New armor? No. Ah, it's your face - you shaved.

THE HAMMER

Darryn. You're too late.

HOODED FIGURE

Amarisa? Darryn? What are you...

Darryn and The Hammer trade blows, but a funny thing starts to happen: The more they fight, the stronger The Hammer gets. Darryn starts to glow. The sword pulsates with power.

HOODED FIGURE (CONT'D)

Oh no. No. No no no...

Rain pouring down now. The Hammer kicks Darryn. He slides across the ground, stopping at the hooded figure's feet.

DARRYN

You must be dad. I know it might not look like it, but I got this.

HOODED FIGURE

Darryn! What are you doing here?!

DARRYN

Have we met?

HOODED FIGURE

Look out, idiot!

The Hammer swings at Darryn. He moves just in time.

Skull Woman watches as Darryn's glowing coincides with the pulsating of The Sword, and she puts it all together.

SKULL WOMAN

Clever, old man. Very clever.

The Hammer has knocked Darryn to his knees. She stands over him with The Sword, the killing blow ready.

THE HAMMER

This time, when I kill you, you'll stay dead.

SKULL WOMAN

Wait!

The Hammer stops. Skull Woman grabs The Hood and drags him over with her.

SKULL WOMAN (CONT'D)

It's not the old man. It's him.

THE HAMMER

Him? What are you talking about?

SKULL WOMAN

The ritual isn't working because the old man doesn't have the power. He hid it. In Darryn.

Hammer soldiers surround Darryn as he gets to his feet.

SKULL WOMAN (CONT'D)
Isn't that right?

Skull Woman throws back the hood to reveal DANCER, the tiger wizard who resurrected Darryn, who is also AMARISA'S DAD.

AMARISA
Dad!

DARRYN
Dad?

Dancer is tired and weak, but it's him.

DANCER
Child, why are you here?

AMARISA
I told you I would rescue you.

Dancer's not the kind of tiger wizard to get upset, but...

DANCER
And I forbade it! Foolish,
headstrong child! But if you had to
come here, why did you bring him?

AMARISA
Dad, I know. He wasn't my first
choice, but-

DANCER
Bah! And you! I gave you every
reason not to come.

DARRYN
You probably thought I couldn't do
it, but I'll get you out of this.

DANCER
You'll get me - You'll get me out
of this? Darryn, by coming here,
you've sealed all of our fates.

Darryn's confused, even more than normal. Skull Woman laughs.

SKULL WOMAN
You moron! The only way he could be
sure we'd never capture his power
was to hide it. In you. Then, he
hid you in the lowest dregs of
Azmoor.

(MORE)

SKULL WOMAN (CONT'D)

I'd have never found you, but
you're just too stupid to stay put.

DARRYN

You infused me with your powers
because I'm the greatest warrior
who ever lived, right?

DANCER

No! I chose you because you are an
idiot! You are weak. Afraid. When
you died, I looked into your heart
and into the hearts of all the men
and creatures around the world who
were dying. Many were too pure. Too
noble. But you - your heart was
full of selfishness and fear and
drunkenness. Lots of drunkenness. I
thought, "Here is a man who will
have no problem hiding away from
the rest of the world." I simply
enhanced your already strong love
of drinking, your heightened self-
loathing, your general, overall
worthlessness...

DARRYN

Wow. That's kinda harsh.

DANCER

...And knew that no one would ever
think of looking for my powers in
you. It was either you or a turtle.

DARRYN

Really? A turtle?

DANCER

He died around the same time as
you. But then, I thought, "Why take
my chances? That turtle might
actually do something."

The Hammer laughs maniacally.

THE HAMMER

If I was capable of pity, Darryn,
I'd say you are pitiful. You lost
The Sword. You lost the girl you
swore to protect. You lost the one
person on this miserable planet who
ever believed in you.

DARRYN

Yeah, I get it. I know.

THE HAMMER

And the only reason you were even brought back to life is because the most powerful wizard on the planet thought you were too stupid to ever show up. But even he underestimated how awful you are at life. You've let down literally everyone!

Maniacal laugh. Maniacal laugh!

Darryn is miserable. Pathetic. Lost. As if - all were lost.

THE HAMMER (CONT'D)

Prepare him for the ceremony.

The guards drag the tired, beaten Darryn over to the occulty circle, while Amarisa and Dancer are rounded up.

AMARISA

You're wrong, both of you.

The Hammer and Dancer both look to her.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Darryn's not that guy anymore. He's not pitiful, he's not a loser, and he's not an idiot. Ok, he is an idiot, but - Travel across the world to find a mythical sword and use it to fight your worst enemy because some girl asked you to? No intelligent person would do that, but Darryn did. He did it, and he stuck by me. He saved me from the soldiers. He beat the Swamp Dwarfs at Paceran. Just like, ten minutes ago, he killed this weird sewer creature. And he brought me to you dad. Everyone was against him, even me, but he did it. It wasn't always pretty or easy like it is in the books, but this isn't a book. It's real life. It's messy and dirty and you don't always end up where you think you're gonna be. But Darryn, he did it, and he did it his way. He's a hero.

THE HAMMER

Are you done, girl?

Amarisa ignores her, turns to Darryn.

AMARISA
Darryn, you can do this.

DARRYN
They're right: I'm a drunk loser.
It's all I've ever been. I'm sorry.

AMARISA
Who cares what they say? When they
said no one could stop the Bridge
Troll of Cralix, what did you do?

DARRYN
Amarisa, that was years ago. I -

AMARISA
What did you do?

DARRYN
I killed it.

AMARISA
What?

DARRYN
(louder)
I killed it.

The Hammer walks towards Amarisa.

THE HAMMER
Shut your mouth, girl.

AMARISA
And when they said you were too
young to kill the Serpent of Uth,
what did you do?

DARRYN
I killed it.

The Hammer getting closer.

THE HAMMER
I said, shut your mouth.

AMARISA
When they said, "Don't do 13 shots
of Dragon's Fire in a row", what
did you do?

DARRYN

I don't really remember. That whole night's kind of a blur.

AMARISA

You did it!

DARRYN

Oh right. Yes, I did it.

AMARISA

And when they said you'd never kill that dragon, what happened?

DARRYN

I killed it. But only because I was too stupid to know better.

AMARISA

Then be too stupid now, Darryn. Be the stupidest you've ever been. That's the only way you'll see how smart you really are.

DARRYN

Is that some sort of zen thing? Because if it is, I don't quite-

AMARISA

This is your shot Darryn. Me, Jynny, my dad - The whole world is counting on you. We need you to show everyone exactly who the real Darryn The Fucking Bold is.

They lock eyes. Epic music at full volume! Until...

The Hammer grabs Amarisa by the throat. Dancer tries to stop her, but he's too weak and The Hammer is RADIATING with power now. She pushes Dancer back, lifts Amarisa into the air.

THE HAMMER

I said, "SHUT YOUR MOUTH!"

Darryn sees Amarisa struggling. Oh, hell no.

DARRYN

Oh yeah. Time to get stupid.

Darryn wrenches one arm free from the guard. PUNCH! The guard goes down. PUNCH! PUNCH! The other guard goes down.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Put her down, Hammer.

The Hammer, unimpressed, tosses Amarisa away.

THE HAMMER

Gods! Do I have to do everything?

Darryn charges at her, but The Hammer is just too big. He falls back, and she puts her ginormous foot on his chest, just like the first time they met.

THE HAMMER (CONT'D)

No more waiting. I'm just going to cut you open and take the power out of your still beating heart.

The Hammer raises The Sword high. But then...

...A giant FROG'S TONGUE wraps around her sword hand. The tongue pulls back and The Hammer goes flying through the air.

She crashes into the ground, rolling and leaving big Hammer indentations in the stones. The Sword lands at the feet of Jynny and her huge war frog.

She grabs The Sword, hops over to Darryn, and smiles.

JYNNY

Darryn! You know what to do.

She tosses The Sword and at last all those layers of bullshit are removed and we see the REAL DTB: Cocky. Stupid. Badass. But all in a totally good way.

DARRYN

One more time to get serious.

Rain pours down as these two behemoths battle for the last time - at least until the sequel. Darryn swings, and when he connects, it HURTS The Hammer. Finally, she looks human.

She swings with her hammer, with her fist, with her feet, but she misses over and over again.

Darryn swings. He kicks. He bites. He does it all, until The Hammer falls to her knees. Both are tired and bloody.

THE HAMMER

I told you Darryn. You're too late. You can't do it. You can't stop me.

DARRYN

I feel like I've heard that before.

The metal in Hammer's face glows that evil red again, but The SWORD OF BOLDNESS CUTS RIGHT THROUGH. Her body falls over.

The storm continues. Darryn turns to Skull Woman.

SKULL WOMAN

My sister was almost as arrogant and foolish as you, but she was right about one thing: You're too late. The portal is open.

A mysterious green fog rises over the castle's edge. It starts to wrap itself around The Hammer's body.

Skull Woman points at Darryn and magical green tendrils of pain erupt from her fingertips, ensnaring Darryn. He screams!

SKULL WOMAN (CONT'D)

You have The Sword and the old man's power. I can still use you.

Skull Woman laughs as the tendrils wrap around Darryn, until SPLAT! A sword right through Skull Woman's back.

JYNNY

Not today, bitch.

Skull Woman falls to the ground. Dead.

DARRYN

I can't believe I ever thought she was attractive.

Jynny smacks him in the shoulder.

The remaining guards surrender. The storm ends. It's quiet.

Dancer looks at Darryn and shakes his head, begrudging respect. He actually did it.

Meanwhile, that green fog continues to ooze over the side of the platform, wrapping itself around The Hammer's dead body.

JYNNY

Uhm, Darryn?

Darryn turns to her and we watch as The Hammer sits up, like the WWE's Undertaker. Smoke rolls out of her eye sockets.

Armor bursts as muscles expand and sinews rip, until she's a HUGE UNDEAD SUPER-HAMMER! Her face takes on a skull-like appearance. Horns pop from her head.

DARRYN

Ho-lee shit.

DANCER

It's the demon. It's in her body.

Darryn turns to Jynny.

DARRYN

Take them, and get out of here.

JYNNY

No. You don't have to do this.

DARRYN

Yes. I do. Go!

JYNNY

Darryn, I - I need to tell you -

DARRYN

Yes?

JYNNY

I would never do a three-way with you and the Thonyzian cat lady.

DARRYN

I know. That's why I love you.

Jynny smiles at him, before she takes Amarisa and Dancer away from the fight. Darryn faces The Hammer, for the last time. Again.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Best two outta three, huh?

Ghostly smoke pours from The Hammer's undead grin. She swings her FIST, sending Darryn rolling down the stony platform.

Darryn's hurt, but he gets to his feet and swings The Sword. It stings her, but she keeps coming. The Hammer hits him again. Darryn crashes down to the platform's edge.

Nothing but darkness behind him, Darryn ducks another fist and dives behind The Hammer. He sends The Sword hard into her back and drives into her with his shoulder!

The Hammer is going over the edge! But, at the last second, she grabs our hero and drags him over with her!

AMARISA

Darryn!

Amarisa runs to the edge of the platform. Darryn, just at the end of her arm's reach. He uses awesome movie strength to hold tight while Super-Hammer grips on to his leg.

Below them lies a SWIRLING DEMONIC VORTEX TO ANOTHER WORLD.
Fire. Electricity. Tentacles. Really bad stuff.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Darryn! Take my hand.

Her hand is right there, but there's no way she could drag him up, and even if she could, The Hammer WILL NOT STOP.

DARRYN

Your father. He's safe?

AMARISA

We got him. Now give me your hand.

DARRYN

I know I wasn't your first choice,
but I'm glad that we did this.
Thank you.

AMARISA

DTB. I'm glad that I chose you.

DARRYN

Hey, just make sure this gets in
one of your books, ok?

AMARISA

Darryn. No.

The Hammer is struggling, fighting her way back up. Darryn smiles, gives a thumbs up, and drops. DTB and The Hammer roll through the deep darkness and

INTO THE VORTEX

Which swallows them and

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXTERNAL. AZMOOR CITY SQUARE - DARRYN'S FUNERAL - DAY

Loud, raucous music plays. People dance. They drink. Swamp Dwarfs do stupid Swamp Dwarf things that piss of the Minotaur Dwarfs. It's a funeral, but not sad. It's a celebration!

A bodiless funeral pyre is set between two large paintings of Darryn. An overly sexy cat-woman pays her respects.

Jynny is there, dressed like she's in charge now. Amarisa stands nearby. She's changed too - a little bit older, wiser. She's dressed for the road. She's got her books. And a sword.

AMARISA (CONT'D)
I think he would have liked this.

JYNNY
I think so, too.

Beat, as they visibly ponder the enigma of Darryn The Bold.

JYNNY (CONT'D)
How's your father?

AMARISA
Much better. He's never been hurt like that, but he'll pull through.

JYNNY
What about you? What will you do?

Amarisa shrugs.

JYNNY (CONT'D)
We could use someone with your knowledge.

AMARISA
All I've ever known is books. I need to see what else is out there.

JYNNY
Well, wherever you go, you've always got a place here.

SKUNKBEARD (O.S.)
Jynny!

Behind them, Skunkbeard stands with a few other Dwarfs. He has an axe, a fruit, and a bottle of some brown liquid.

SKUNKBEARD (CONT'D)
We need you to settle a bet!

Jynny rolls her eyes. Amarisa smiles and nods.

JYNNY
Coming!

Amarisa jumps on her horse and stares out into the horizon.

AMARISA
Well, as one of the greatest poet/philosophers of our time used to say, "Time to get serious."

She rides off, outlined in the setting sun.

FADE OUT.

SLAM CUT TO THE DEATH DIMENSION.

Ryn and Kyn, the drunks, lying, just as we saw Darryn earlier.

RYN THE RAT DRUNK
What is this place?

KYN THE CAT DRUNK
I don't know, but it's dark.

A deep British Indian voice speaks out of the darkness.

DANCER
You in a place between life and death.

RYN THE RAT DRUNK
So, will it take us long to get home?

KYN THE CAT DRUNK
Yeah, because we have a lot of drinking to do.

DANCER
Oh my gods! Does everyone who dies have to be so stupid?!

SLAM TO BLACK.

THE END.