

K.D. Barker's
KINGDOM
Some people keep the greatest secrets...

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Company logo

FADE UP FROM BLACK

TITLE CARD#1:Some people keep the greatest secrets.

TITLE CARD#2:This is yours...

TITLE CARD#3:KINGDOM

FADE TO BLACK

INT. NIGHT. VOLDRAX CASTLE. DUNGEON.

1

TITLE CARD: **2000 Years Ago**

The dungeon is dark and dank, the only light comes from several torches which flicker in the draughts. The silence is unexpectedly shattered by the scream of GUSTAVAS DURETUS (General). The powerful reptilian arm of - WAR (a dragon: Draco Minimax Bellare) darts out from the shadows and pins DURETUS against the wall, his feet wobble several feet off the ground. VORT IGEN (The KEEPER) stands beside DURETUS. The body of King DRUISK lies in between them.

DURETUS

Tell him to put me down or I'll...

WAR

VO:You'll what human?

WISDOM (Draco Minimax Sapiens) remains partially hidden in the shadows.

WISDOM

VO:Put him down. The battle between us has passed.

WAR lets DURETUS drop to the ground. VORT helps DURETUS to his feet.

DURETUS

(Defiantly)

And we nearly won.

WISDOM

VO:(To WAR) We all agreed to appoint them as guardians in our absence.

WAR

VO:I don't trust them.

(CONTINUED)

2.

CONTINUED:

1

VORT

Then trust me. I swore an oath of allegiance to protect your kingdom until the time you return.

WISDOM

VO:VORT speaks the true word.

WAR

VO:Son's of Eve lie, they're notorious for it.

DURETUS

I took the oath as well, my word is my bond.

WAR barks at DURETUS causing him to jump back in fright. WAR moves forward, revealing more of himself in the flickering torch light. He towers over DURETUS. WISDOM remains mostly hidden in the shadows.

The four sacred amulets of NECRELIAN sit on a waist high podium.

WISDOM

VO:The words of our agreement are carved on the amulets. Their power is sacred, do not abuse it.

DURETUS

I'll make sure they are followed to the letter.

WISDOM

VO:I hope so.

VORT

Now do the thing which we agreed upon.

DURETUS

(Dismayed)

Surely there must be another way.

VORT rounds on DURETUS.

VORT

Coward! You knew the weight of our sacrifice.

(CONTINUED)

3.

CONTINUED: (2)

1

DURETUS

(Hushed/Secretive)

But I didn't think we'd actually lose against them.

WISDOM

VO:Are you ready?

VORT

We are.

VORT places one amulet into the rigor-mortis stiffened hands of King DRUISK. VORT places the fourth amulet onto a clasp in the middle of WAR's chest. VORT and DURETUS then take the second and third amulets, draw their swords (Enquinamin and Vulock respectively) bringing them close to their chests and assume a kneeling position.

WAR

VO:Guard the secrets well sons of Eve.

In the next moment WISDOM and WAR spew torrents of brilliant incandescent flame over VORT and DURETUS. The fires lap round the men but cause no harm. Within moments both men are encased in "The Living Fire" a glowing, translucent crystal which will feed their bodies for the eons to come.

INT. DAY. VOLDRAX CASTLE. DUNGEON.

2

1600 years have passed. The dungeon and its contents are now covered in mould and cobwebs.

The frame passes amongst the dusty corners and all around until it settles on the crystal holding VORT and DURETUS - both perfectly preserved inside.

A tiny flaw has propagated through the crystal's diamond like structure and emerged on the surface as a crack. Within a few short moments the crack visibly widens.

The frame moves closer - DURETUS's eye flicks open. His freed hand clutches his amulet.

EXT. DAY. THE CITY. TODAY.

3

TROY FRANKLYN is heading to his office at the start of another busy day in the world of registered auditing. The sun is shining and TROY is enjoying the morning hustle-bustle. The city streets are full of people; TROY has to side steps his fellow commuters and early morning shoppers.

(CONTINUED)

4.

CONTINUED:

3

The frame passes the ominous but impressive facade of the VOLDRAX building (NB: formerly VOLDRAX Castle). TROY stops by traffic lights and waits to cross. A nearby tourist guide (with several tourists), points out the highlights. TROY listens.

TOURIST GUIDE

Behind you is VOLDRAX Castle, believed to be the oldest building in the city. It was built by King DRUISK and dates back to year zero on the modern calendar. As you can see the castle has been revamped with a modern interior but it still retains the original dungeon and many other unique features...

The lights change and TROY moves on.

TROY eventually reaches his office, a narrow fronted building squeezed between high tech office blocks. A shiny brass plaque bears the company name DURETUS ROLSTON & BEZZENCOTE.

CUT TO

Unseen by TROY is a casually dressed observer (ARISTOTLE) who watches him from across the street. ARISTOTLE surreptitiously replaces his home made 'hand scanner' back inside his coat.

CUT TO

DURETUS ROLSTON & BEZZENCOTE's front foyer is it's usual calm self, giving off an air of staid formality with functional decor. ALFRED PALMINGER (security man) tips his hat to TROY.

TROY

Alfie, Alfie.

ALFRED

Good morning Mr Franklyn.

TROY

Busy today?

ALFRED

The grapevine tells me your presence has been requested from our "masters on high".

TROY stops in his tracks.

TROY

Me?

(CONTINUED)

5.

CONTINUED: (2)

3

ALFRED

I wouldn't want to steal anybody's thunder Mr Franklyn.

TROY

I see, thanks for the warning.

TROY turns back and enters the elevator. Just as the doors are about to close Mr STEINBRIDGE and Mrs JESSOP step in.

TROY

Mrs Jessop, Mr Steinbridge.

Steinbridge and Jessop do not acknowledge TROY's greeting and stand with their backs to him. The doors close.

TROY

Third please.

TROY raises his hand to press the third floor button but it is blocked by STEINBRIDGE.

JESSOP

Some of us have been with this company for thirty five years and never been higher than the third floor.

STEINBRIDGE

It's a glass ceiling isn't it?

JESSOP

I mean what ever happened to loyalty? All those wasted years hosting mindless cocktail parties for what?

STEINBRIDGE

So some office junior can trounce into the company with his GNVQ's, a cheap Burton suit and be invited "upstairs".

JESSOP

One would expect the chance to at least meet the senior partners.

STEINBRIDGE

Quite.

JESSOP

No ones ever met them. I was hoping to be the first....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

3

JESSOP'S lip quivers.

STEINBRIDGE

Events have conspired against us Mrs Jessop.

JESSOP

I think I'm going to be upset.

STEINBRIDGE opens the lift doors.

STEINBRIDGE

Restraint Mrs Jessop. It wouldn't do to let the "upstart" see a fault in your composure.

STEINBRIDGE glares at TROY.

STEINBRIDGE

We'll walk.

The doors close. TROY presses the third floor button and the elevator ascends. He shrugs his shoulders and adjusts his dress. The elevator stops at the second floor. FIONA (FEE) SEAMOORE (a secretary) steps in. SEAMOORE's bubbly personality belies her sober appearance. The doors close and the elevator ascends.

SEAMOORE

TROY old mate.

TROY

Fee, what on earth is going on?

SEAMOORE

I can't say.

TROY

I think Steinbridge and Jessop have just had a go at me.

SEAMOORE

They're just jealous.

TROY

Of what?

SEAMOORE

You're going up and they're staying where they are.

TROY

You're more cryptic than ALFRED.

SCENE 4 INT. DAY. BRD OFFICES

REVISED

TROY walks past the row of offices. Mrs DAPLE calls to him.

DAPLE

Mr Franklin.

TROY diverts course to Mrs DAPLE's room. He knocks on the partially open door.

DAPLE

Come in Mr Franklin.

TROY

Actually I'm meant to be seeing Mr Fitzsimmons.

DAPLE

I know. Take a seat Mr Franklin.

TROY sits down. DAPLE continues her tasks. He checks his watch.

TROY

I really must get going.

DAPLE

I've had quick word with Mr Fitzsimmons just before you came in. The senior partners would like you to wait here.

TROY

The senior partners!

DAPLE

Do you have a problem with that Mr Franklin?

TROY

No. [Pause] I don't suppose you know what this is about?

DAPLE

If you're going to leap frog members of staff with greater seniority than you, I'd expect you to have the answers.

TROY is upbeat.

TROY

I've either screwed-up big time or been promoted to managing director.

DAPLE

See if you can contain your ego in front of the partners young man. You've put quite a few noses out of joint.

The intercom phone rings. DAPLE answers it.

DAPLE

He's here now sir. ...Yes... I'll bring him through.

DAPLE replaces the phone handset.

DAPLE

The senior partners are ready to see you. If you'd like to follow me.

TROY

I'd follow you to the ends of the earth Mrs DAPLE.

DAPLE turns on TROY.

DAPLE

I'm a married woman Mr Franklin. I don't care for your smut.

TROY

Sorry, I was just trying to be friendly.

DAPLE

Umh. Save it for your peers. Come on.

INT. DAY. DURETUS ROLSTON & BEZZENCOTE OFFICE.

5

TROY walks to a plush staircase at the side of the elevator shaft. A lattice metal guard blocks the staircase. TROY moves the guard; ascends one step then replaces the guard behind himself.

TROY approaches the door of the fourth floor office suite. Miss CONSTANCE DAPLE (a secretary) calls him to enter before he knocks.

DAPLE

VO:Come in Mr Franklyn.

TROY enters. The reception area is a modern, soulless example of corporate efficiency. The rooms only throwback is the secretary MISS DAPLE who has an air of formidable strictness exemplified by permed hair, chained butterfly-rim glasses, high collar blouse and a grey cardigan draped over her shoulders. She continues to work on an old manual IBM typewriter, not paying the slightest attention to TROY who hovers nervously.

TROY

I'm here to see the senior partners.

DAPLE

I know.

DAPLE continues typing.

TROY

I guess you must have known it was me outside the door. You certainly keep this place secret.

For the first time DAPLE looks up from her typewriter and focuses on TROY. DAPLE points to a chair, which TROY sits in.

TROY looks at his watch.

One 'boring' hour later.

The intercom on Miss DAPLE'S desk buzzes.

ROLSTON

VO:Show Franklyn in please Miss DAPLE.

DAPLE
Yes Mr ROLSTON.

TROY sits up waiting for the nod.

DAPLE
If you would like to walk this way Mr Franklyn,
the senior partners will see you now.

TROY stands up and moves behind Miss DAPLE.

TROY
If I could walk that way I wouldn't need to see the
partners...

DAPLE
I beg your pardon.

TROY
I'm sorry... (mumbles) I was trying to be funny.

DAPLE
See if you can contain your wit in front of the
senior partners young man.

They walk along a long wood panel corridor towards yet another office door. MISS DAPLE knocks.

DAPLE
TROY FRANKLYN.

ROLSTON
VO:Wheel him in.

DAPLE opens the door and ushers TROY in.

INT. DAY. MAIN OFFICE.

6

The office is expansive, plush and decorated in a contemporary manner. In front of TROY is a large oak desk carrying all the hallmarks of the owners status. (There are two fine china tea cups in front of the desk occupiers). Seated behind the desk on the right hand side is a thin, grey haired man (ROLSTON) dressed in a well made business suit. Seated beside ROLSTON but with his back to TROY's gaze is another man (BEZZENCOTE). From TROY's P.O.V he can see BEZZENCOTE is wearing open toe sandals on bare feet. His legs are crossed and casually placed on the window sill.

ROLSTON
Do you know who I am?

TROY
Brandon Rolston.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

6

ROLSTON

(To Bezzencote) Knows who we are. (To TROY)
Don't be afraid to call me "mister" Rolston.

TROY

Sorry, Mr ROLSTON.

BEZZENCOTE remains with his back to TROY.

BEZZENCOTE

How long have you been with the company?

TROY

Five years, seven months Mr BEZZENCOTE.

ROLSTON clicks his fingers for TROY to be seated.

BEZZENCOTE

Are you prepared to go without your creature comforts for a few days?

TROY

If it was necessary.

ROLSTON

Do you like the countryside? Suppose you saw a bat, would you be afraid?

BEZZENCOTE flicks through TROY's personal profile.

TROY

I like the country, bats wouldn't unduly worry me.

BEZZENCOTE

You got a 'U' grade for your 'O' Level History didn't you?

TROY

It wasn't my strongest subject.

BEZZENCOTE

Still we've got to install some kind of historical perspective into you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

6

ROLSTON

After all what would you do if you saw a five hundred year old bat? (Laughs to himself)

TROY is a becoming annoyed.

TROY

Ring the Guinness book of Records, I suppose sir.

BEZZENCOTE

Oh!

ROLSTON

What would you do for proof?

TROY

You want me to get proof of 500 year old bats?

ROLSTON clicks his fingers again.

ROLSTON

(To Bezzencote) He's got a tongue on him.

BEZZENCOTE finally swivels his chair round. TROY's eyes widen at the sight which greets him. BEZZENCOTE is a similar age to ROLSTON but wears a dirty string vest and ill fitting, pinstripe nylon trousers. Food stains adorn the front of his clothes. His hair is white but tinged with yellow nicotine. BEZZENCOTE's face is unshaven.

BEZZENCOTE

Do you see his jacket? What the hell are you playing at Franklyn?

TROY

What's wrong with my jacket?

BEZZENCOTE

Fluff man, there's a piece of fluff on your arm.

TROY locates the tiny particle of nylon fluff.

TROY

You're worried about my piece of fluff?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

6

ROLSTON

You represent us to the outside world, if clients saw you covered in fluff we'd loose business.

TROY

Sorry, perhaps I should have worn a vest....

ROLSTON

Now you've torn it.

TROY

I apologise, I didn't mean to say that.

BEZZENCOTE

Yes you did.

TROY

No, I'm sorry.

ROLSTON

Umh.

BEZZENCOTE slurps noisily from his tea cup.

BEZZENCOTE

Would you like some Tea FRANKLYN?

TROY

Thank you.

ROLSTON points to BEZZENCOTE'S cup which he has just slobbered over.

ROLSTON

Go on then, drink that one.

TROY

I've changed my mind.

ROLSTON

Do you like your job here?

TROY

Yes, but if that means using that cup then I might have to reconsider my position.

BEZZENCOTE

Have you got something against my tea making skills?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

6

TROY

I don't think that's an appropriate question.

ROLSTON

Stand up.

TROY stands up. BEZZENCOTE and ROLSTON look TROY up and down and nod to each other.

BEZZENCOTE

Sit down. You've passed the test.

TROY

That was a test?

BEZZENCOTE

We've reduced men with forty years experience on you to blubbering idiots.

ROLSTON

Reduced them to tears.

TROY

Do you get some kind of pleasure out of this?

BEZZENCOTE

I hate sycophants. If I want my backside wiped, I'll use toilet paper. I've seen more brown noses come and go from this company than you've had hot dinners. You stood up for yourself, which means you win the prize.

TROY

I'm all for prizes.

ROLSTON

We've got a job for you.

TROY

Why pick me? Ah, this is why I'm getting all the sharp looks from the senior auditors.

ROLSTON

We need someone who can think for themselves but follow orders.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

6

BEZZENCOTE

Sycophants don't think for themselves and this company is riddled with them.

TROY

So you picked me?

ROLSTON

Correct. We've been monitoring your progress since you handled the Donovan account.

TROY

Thank you sir.

ROLSTON

Credit due where its due Franklyn.

BEZZENCOTE

We want you to come to dinner tonight. Have you got a girl?

ROLSTON

Bring a girl. We like girls.

TROY

I'm not involved with anybody right now.

BEZZENCOTE

You a cissy?

TROY

I don't think that's an appropriate question either.

ROLSTON

You're very abrupt FRANKLYN, underpants too tight or something?

BEZZENCOTE

What about Miss Daple she's a girl?

TROY

I don't think she would appreciate being called a girl.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

6

BEZZENCOTE

Nonsense. We're eating at my place tonight.
Dress casual, no need to restrict the blood flow
with a tie.

ROLSTON

Four for eight.

ROLSTON slides a brown A4 sized envelope and a tightly sealed package (unknown to them containing the third amulet) over the desk to TROY.

ROLSTON

That's a dossier on DURETUS. And that's a
parcel he wants delivered from the company
vaults. Get up to speed on the contents by tonight,
because the job starts tomorrow.

TROY

I'm right in the middle of the Benifield account.

BEZZENCOTE

Harrison will take over for you. Consider yourself
on special assignment.

ROLSTON

And when you drop that off (parcel) it will give
you a perfect opportunity to meet him.

INT. NIGHT. EVENING. COUNCIL TOWER BLOCK ESTATE.

7

TROY is with SEAMOORE, they are both dressed in smart casual wear. TROY carries a bottle of wine.
They climb the grotty steps to BEZZENCOTE'S flat.

TROY

The mans a multi-millionaire but he chooses to
live here.

SEAMOORE

Are you sure this is the right address?

TROY checks the address which has been written on a piece of paper.

(CONTINUED)

17.

CONTINUED:

7

TROY
Flat 96 Lincoln Towers.

SEAMOORE
Must be right.

TROY counts off the door numbers to 96.

TROY
Right 96. You look pretty nice for "the" older woman.

SEAMOORE
Not bad yourself for a toy-boy.

TROY
Please Fee, whatever is discussed tonight goes no further than these walls right.

SEAMOORE
Cross my heart and hope to get an office in the accounts department.

TROY
I'm serious.

SEAMOORE
Kidding!

TROY knocks on the door. ROLSTON answers.

TROY
Good evening Mr ROLSTON.

ROLSTON
Franklyn. Miss Seamoore. (To TROY), this is unexpected Franklyn?

SEAMOORE
It's a pleasure to meet you at last Mr Rolston. Something smells nice Mmmmm.

TROY
Mmmmm, home cooking.

ROLSTON takes TROY's wine off him.

ROLSTON
You'd better come in.

INT. DAY. BEZZENCOTE'S FLAT.

8

ROLSTON shows them into the dingy, untidy flat. They enter a combined living room/dining room/kitchen. A small square table with three place settings underwhelms the middle of the room. BEZZENCOTE is in the corner cooking over a food-splashed Baby Belling oven. He is singeing mixed liver chops and tripe. Hot fat crackles and spatters.

TROY

Good evening Mr BEZZENCOTE.

BEZZENCOTE looks up but directs his attention towards SEAMOORE.

BEZZENCOTE

Is this your girlie?

TROY

This is FIONA SEAMOORE from the Legal department.

BEZZENCOTE

Oh! (To SEAMOORE), anything you hear tonight is not to be discussed outside of this room.

SEAMOORE

Complete discretion sir. Oh, and I'd rather you didn't call me "girlie".

You could cut the air....

BEZZENCOTE

That's sorted then.

ROLSTON

Right. I'm sitting next to the 'woman', Bezzencote is on the other side. That's good. Places then.

ROLSTON pushes SEAMOORE into her chair then points out a tatty armchair to TROY.

ROLSTON

You're okay eating off you lap?

TROY isn't given the chance to answer.

BEZZENCOTE

'Course he is.

TROY removes all the rubbish which occupies the chair. BEZZENCOTE retrieves four dirty plates from the crowded sink and wipes them partially clean on his apron.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

8

TROY has to look away in disgust. The cutlery is given a similar treatment.

ROLSTON

Wine?

TROY and SEAMOORE both say "Yes". ROLSTON retrieves a bottle of Thunderbird wine from BEZZENCOTE'S fridge and proceeds to open it.

TROY

I bought a nice Chardonnay.

ROLSTON

I know you did. We'll drink it when you've gone.

SEAMOORE

Oh Thunderbird! My Darren drinks that when he goes to his college parties. It's very... inexpensive.

TROY

Great place you've got here Mr Bezzencote.

BEZZENCOTE

Don't spoil it Franklyn. We both know it's a dump.

ROLSTON

Used to be a lot of rats here, but now most of them have moved up-market.

TROY

Why do you live here when you could have anything you want?

BEZZENCOTE

I like it. Its me. At the end of the day when I've been faffing about with the big wigs and high rollers of this world, I can come home and relax. Besides I only use the penthouse at weekends.

SEAMOORE

(To Rolston) I take it your place is different from this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

8

ROLSTON

You noticed. Me and him are as different as chalk and cheese. That's why we work so well together.

SEAMOORE

Opposites attract.

ROLSTON

We're not attracted to each other...

TROY

...The way you work together.

ROLSTON

Oh, you're not far wrong.

BEZZENCOTE

Slops ready.

BEZZENCOTE gouges out four semi burnt pieces of shrivelled liver and tripe. He sits down to the table. SEAMOORE warily eyes her food. There is nothing else on the plate.

SEAMOORE

Were do I start?

BEZZENCOTE

(To SEAMOORE) You forgetting your manners?

BEZZENCOTE bows his head and clasps SEAMOORE'S hand. ROLSTON clasps her other hand. TROY is left watching, he soon follows suit and bows his head but continues to peek.

BEZZENCOTE says grace.

BEZZENCOTE

Our father may you increase the ratio of our liquid assets to our debts and we pray for guidance when choosing the correct payment formula for our de-merger interests. Amen.

ROLSTON

Amen.

BEZZENCOTE

Dig in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

8

ROLSTON

Read the document FRANKLYN?

TROY

It was fascinating.

ROLSTON

Get on with it then.

TROY

Excuse me?

ROLSTON

We want to hear your summary.

TROY (oh so reluctantly) pushes his plate forward. As TROY speaks he shows photographs from the A4 envelope.

TROY

DURETUS Rolston and Bezzencote are the sole accountants for the Brackenbridge estate in Yorkshire. Gustavas DURETUS is the senior founding member and third partner in DURETUS Rolston and Bezzencote, he also has the title of Lord DURETUS of Brackenbridge. Recently substantial funds from the company's bank account have been deposited directly into the Brackenbridge estate to pay for its up-keep. As controlling member, Lord DURETUS can do that, but the transactions never show up on official bank statements. All slightly irregular.

BEZZENCOTE

I should say. He's cutting our legs away.

TROY

DURETUS's also taken on a new personal assistant a MANFRED HUNT, Ex-army officer and mercenary. He's been connected to a number of military coups in politically sensitive countries. Hunt has set up office for them in the old VOLDRAX building. There was no other profile information on him. [

(more)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

8

TROY (Cont'd)

Pause] Based on this evidence I'd say Lord DURETUS is dissolving your partnership.

ROLSTON

We want you to find out exactly what he's up to.

SEAMOORE

If he's going to shut the company down and misappropriate funds, wouldn't this be a police matter?

ROLSTON swiftly interjects.

ROLSTON

If our clients knew that the police we investigating the senior partner, what do think it would do to our image?

TROY

I see. Discretion is the order of the day.

ROLSTON

DURETUS is up to something, sure as eggs is eggs.

BEZZENCOTE

And that's where you come in.

INT. DAY. TROY'S CAR.

9

TROY is heading along a country lane. The package rests in the seat next to him. He pulls up next to MRS PAYNE (a pedestrian).

TROY

Excuse me. I'm looking for Brackenbridge. It's not on any of my maps.

PAYNE

You won't find it on any map. I think I can show you.

TROY brings the map to PAYNE.

TROY

It must be off the beaten track a bit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

9

PAYNE

That's why it's so quiet around here.

TROY

Well I'm going round in circles.

PAYNE

Every summer a handful of tourists from Thalamoore end up getting lost.

TROY

Thalamoore that's the next village?

PAYNE

That's it. (Looking at map) There you are. See Havvard's Farm, follow the road along here then take both left turns and you can't miss it.

TROY

Both lefts and I'm there.

PAYNE

That's right.

TROY

Thanks for your help.

PAYNE is already turning back to her route as TROY pulls away.

EXT. DAY. BRACKENBRIDGE. MANSION. DRIVE.

10

TROY pulls up in his car. The estate is deserted and eerily quiet. The imposing facade of the building looms over the forecourt. TROY climbs out of his car and stretches his legs. The front door opens and MANFRED HUNT approaches.

MANFRED

Mr Franklyn we've been expecting you.

TROY

I made it just.

MANFRED

Perfect. You've brought the package. Lord DURETUS can't stand using couriers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

10

TROY

You must be....

MANFRED

Sorry. I'm MANFRED HUNT, Lord DURETUS's personal assistant.

TROY passes the package over. Note: WARDEN walks past and tips his hat to TROY.

TROY

Pleased to meet you. (Looking at FACADE) This is a serious building.

MANFRED

Why don't you stay over?

TROY

I couldn't.

MANFRED

Its a long drive back, we've got spare capacity here.

CUT TO

DURETUS is seated by one of the large lattice windows which overlooks the forecourt. TROY and MANFRED can be seen entering the mansion.

DURETUS

Yes. My package.

CUT TO

TROY

Is Lord DURETUS available?

MANFRED

He's away on business. He'll be back tomorrow.

TROY

That's a pity, I'd of liked to talk to him.

MANFRED

I'll see what can be arranged, but first I'll show you to your room and arrange some supper for you.

INT. NIGHT. MANSION.

11

TROY is in bed. The peace is disrupted by a howling roar some way off. TROY wakes with a nervous start.

A portrait of DURETUS dominates the room.

TROY

Not tonight Josephine.

TROY tries to relax. The roar comes again but its much quieter this time. The wind is also breezing through the trees outside.

TROY

I'm not sleeping in the haunted bedroom.

TROY gets out of bed and exits the room. TROY walks about the deserted mansion.

INT. NIGHT. MANSION. LOUNGE.

12

He enters a lounge and makes an improvised bed for himself on one of the large sofas.

INT. DAY. MANSION. LOUNGE.

13

Bright sunlight pours through the curtains. TROY wakes with a start. Another portrait of DURETUS looms over him.

TROY

Urgh, where did you come from?

TROY's back is stiff and all his clothes are creased.

TROY can hear children's laughter coming from outside the lounge. He quickly stands up and looks out the window. There is no one there, but he can still hear the laughter. Behind TROY, MANFRED sneaks across the floor to TROY's clothes. He searches TROY's clothes for documents.

MANFRED

There must be something.

TROY half turns back, then turns to the window again as he hears the laughter.

MANFRED creeps back across the floor towards the door. TROY's mobile phone rings. MANFRED spots an Iron Maiden on a display stand, (there is nowhere else to hide and TROY is about to turn around). He climbs inside.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

13

TROY

Bob, hi ya mate.

HARRISON

Where are you?

MANFRED emits a stifled yelp as the spikes pierce his body.

TROY

Wait...

HARRISON

What is it?

TROY

I thought I heard something. No its gone.

HARRISON

So.

TROY

This is the singularly weirdest place I've ever been.

HARRISON

What's going on?

TROY

Lets just say nothing appears as it should be. I'll give you the low down when I'm back in the office.

HARRISON

FITZSIMMONS has got me working on your Benifield account.

TROY

Try not to enjoy yourself too much.

HARRISON

Anything I can do from this end?

TROY

Yeah, get onto the county architect and send me a copy of the VOLDRAX building blueprints please.

HARRISON jots the name down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

13

HARRISON

VOLDRAX blueprints. Over your head a bit?

TROY

I want some bed time reading.

HARRISON

I believe you, thousands wouldn't.

TROY

Ask me no questions and I'll tell you no lies.

HARRISON

Fair enough. I'll keep the desk warm. See ya.

TROY

Cheers.

TROY hears the children's laughter again. He dashes towards the room exit then doubles back to look at the Iron Maiden - which has been mysteriously closed.

TROY

I could have sworn that was open.

TROY gives his memory the benefit of the doubt and exits the room. Unnoticed by TROY is a trickle of blood seeping from the Iron Maiden's base.

EXT. DAY. MANSION. SIDE DOOR.

14

TROY heads to a side door and exits the mansion. He continues across the estate and into woodland. The laughter has stopped.

TROY

Anybody here? Hello.

TROY looks around. The laughter comes again. He heads off moving deeper into the forest. Within moments TROY is in thick woodland and lost.

TROY

Why do I do this to myself?

The laughter comes again.

TROY swiftly looks round but he doesn't see anybody.

TROY bluffs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

14

TROY

I can see you. Shouldn't you be in school?

The laughter comes again. This time he catches someone disappearing into the bush. TROY follows and heads deeper into the forest.

TROY enters a small clearing.

TROY

(Bluffing) I know you're in here.

SPARTACUS

No you don't.

TROY turns round with a start.

TROY

Where did you come from?

SPARTACUS

Same place you did.

TROY

And where's that?

ORPHELIA is SPARTACUS' eight year old sister.

ORPHELIA

The house.

TROY is unsure how to proceed.

TROY

Was it you laughing?

SPARTACUS

You look so funny sleeping on the sofa.

ORPHELIA

(To SPARTACUS) Is he one of daddy's friends?

SPARTACUS

I doubt it. He looks normal.

TROY

I'm not normal. I mean of course I'm normal.
Where are your parents?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

14

ORPHELIA

Why do you ask some many questions?

TROY

Because I like lots of answers.

ORPHELIA

We'll take you to our dad.

SPARTACUS is wary.

SPARTACUS

He doesn't know we're here.

ORPHELIA

He's going to find out sooner or later.

SPARTACUS and ORPHELIA run off through the forrest.

ORPHELIA

(To TROY) Come on silly.

TROY follows the children.

They run for some distance. The thick forrest becomes more dense.

EXT. DAY.FOREST.

15

TROY follows the children.

TROY

My name is TROY, what's your name?

SPARTACUS

I'm SPARTACUS and this is my sister
ORPHELIA.

TROY

You're called SPARTACUS and ORPHELIA!

ORPHELIA squares off to TROY and stands with her hands on her hips. Her stern manner belies her tender years.

ORPHELIA

Look silly, don't tease. The other kids at school
try to pick on us because of our names.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

15

TROY is taken aback.

TROY

I'm sorry. I wasn't laughing at you.

He offers his hand.

TROY

Friends?

ORPHELIA shakes his hand.

ORPHELIA

Okay "TROY".

TROY

SPARTACUS?

SPARTACUS

(Reluctantly - then warmer) Friends.

TROY

That's better. Now, can you tell me where we're going?

ARISTOTLE

Ssshhhssshhh!

Through trees to the right of TROY and the children is a wide clearing. Standing in the centre of the clearing is ARISTOTLE. He wields a bizarre home built contraption resembling an elongated lawn trimmer on steroids, (a Pheromone Spectral Analyser (PSA)). Antennae mounted at the working end of the PSA twitch and flutter as ARISTOTLE sweeps the sensor array over the clearing.

ARISTOTLE gestures for TROY, SPARTACUS and ORPHELIA to duck down. ARISTOTLE continues scanning.

ARISTOTLE

Why aren't you in school?

ORPHELIA

We hate it there.

TROY starts to get up.

ARISTOTLE

Get down! Your pheromone mix will corrupt my readings.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

15

TROY

(Discretely to children)

No disrespect kids but you're dad's a nutbag.

ARISTOTLE completes his scanning.

ARISTOTLE

You probably think this looks a bit odd Mr FRANKLYN but I can assure you my methods are scientifically correct.

ARISTOTLE waves TROY and the children over.

TROY

How do you know my name?

ARISTOTLE ignores the question and instead admonishes his children.

ARISTOTLE

(Shaking head)

You'll be the death of me won't you?

ORPHELIA

We don't learn anything at school.

ARISTOTLE

Of course you do. SPARTACUS you should know better then to bring your sister out here.

SPARTACUS

Don't blame me, I saw her sneaking out first.

ARISTOTLE

ORPHELIA.

TROY

Before you read the riot act, I would like a few answers.

ARISTOTLE

(To TROY) I'm speaking to my children. Do you mind.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

15

TROY

You do realise this is private property and keeping
your kids truant from school...

An alarm on the PSA activates. BEEP, BEEP, BEEP. ARISTOTLE fiddles with the equipment.

ORPHELIA

Have you got something dad?

ARISTOTLE

Just the best reading since summer '93!
(Gesturing to back-packs and sensors strewn on
the ground) Mr FRANKLYN if you wouldn't
mind. Come on kids.

ARISTOTLE moves off still carrying the ungainly PSA. The children are already retrieving bits of kit,
TROY follows suit. TROY moves parallel to ARISTOTLE.

TROY

What's going on?

ARISTOTLE

Shush, we're getting closer. Down!

ARISTOTLE forces TROY down. The children dive under cover like seasoned professionals.
ARISTOTLE retrieves his camera.

TROY

Are you real!

Moments pass by. ARISTOTLE senses the way is clear, he speaks in hushed tones.

ARISTOTLE

I'm ARISTOTLE WOOD. You've met the gang.

TROY looks behind. ORPHELIA and SPARTACUS wave. TROY waves back.

TROY

You're called ARISTOTLE and you've named
your kids SPARTACUS AND ORPHELIA!

ARISTOTLE

Great names yeah. You know my work isn't
dissimilar from yours.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

15

TROY

Really.

ARISTOTLE

You're an Auditor, we both have our methods for capturing data.

TROY

You hacked into our computer and read my files.

ARISTOTLE

I prefer the term "cracked", hackers only exist in the tabloid papers. You should get better security.

TROY

That's beside the point. What are you doing here?

ARISTOTLE

Can't you guess?

TROY

No I can't.

ARISTOTLE

Go on.

SPARTACUS

He called you a Nutbag.

TROY

(To SPARTACUS) Thank you.

ARISTOTLE

That's nice, running me down in front of my children. Typical suit.

TROY

I'm sorry. You're probably fine. Why else would you be lugging an overgrown Hoover around the countryside and dragging your kids through the bush?

ORPHELIA

We're children not kids.

TROY

Yes madam.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

15

ARISTOTLE

I'm a cryptozoologist.

TROY

Oh that explains everything.

ARISTOTLE

I study extinct and mythical animals, what I call cryptomorphs. Look.

Through a small gap in the foliage a barely discernible shape (Actually WARDEN) moves about. Its barely visible. A powerful roar blasts out (WISDOM).

ORPHELIA

(Worried)

Daddy.

ARISTOTLE

Okay baby. Everything is going to be fine.

TROY looks over to ARISTOTLE "you think so".

TROY

I'm sure I heard that last night. Is it an escaped animal?

ARISTOTLE

Not quiet.

TROY

Some of these country houses have private zoos.

ARISTOTLE

You really don't have any idea what you're involved in do you?

TROY

It shows?

ARISTOTLE retrieves his hand scanner and activates it for TROY.

ARISTOTLE

This estate is surrounded by remnants of a quasi-static field. I'm not sure how it works, probably some form of Casualty Violation.

TROY

Casualty Violation?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

15

SPARTACUS

(To TROY) Time displacement theory.

ARISTOTLE

To cut a long story short, I've located a point source emanating from the VOLDRAX building, the one owned by DURETUS.

TROY

(Excitedly)

I've just ordered those blueprints. Hang about this is starting to sound like Doctor Who.

ARISTOTLE

Oh please.

TROY

Well you're not making much sense.

ARISTOTLE

We need to find The Keeper.

TROY gestures 'over my head'.

ARISTOTLE

The Keeper of NECRELIAN.

TROY is sceptical.

TROY

"Come in planet earth".

ARISTOTLE retrieves an aluminium cylinder, unscrews the cap and carefully pulls out a sheet of fax paper.

TROY

What a surprise a Treasure map!

ARISTOTLE

Look if you can't take this seriously.

TROY

What do you expect?

ARISTOTLE

I'll show you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

15

He unfurls the sheet and shows it to TROY and the children. There are rows of men (The Legion of Warriors) ranked behind DURETUS and VORT. All the figures are encased in individual blocks of crystal. DURETUS and VORT are drawn standing over the body of King DRUISK. The background is filled out with stylised drawings of dragons (WAR and WISDOM). Unrecognisable text is scrawled across the bottom.

ARISTOTLE

Ever seen anything like this before?

TROY looks more closely at the sheet.

TROY

This doesn't mean anything to me. Hang about, that's our web number!

ARISTOTLE

If your company insists on keeping all its documents on computer, its going to be easier to run off a copy.

TROY shakes his head in disbelief.

ARISTOTLE

Its a copy of the Kingdom book. Every shire had one as a record of their status. I'm convinced this guy (DURETUS) is one of the partners in your company.

TROY

Oh come on....

ARISTOTLE

Let me finish. (Pointing out the details), From what I've deciphered, druids called this (the crystal) "The Fire of Life". I think DURETUS was released from it and VORT IGEN the Keeper is still trapped inside. We need to find this guy, (VORT). He's the missing link to conclusive proof of cryptomorph organisms.

TROY looks at ARISTOTLE, then at the children.

TROY

Do you believe any of this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

15

SPARTACUS pulls out a photograph from his jacket and hands it to TROY. The photograph clearly shows a Plesiosaur type animal swimming through calm water - it is an exceptionally detailed and clear photograph.

SPARTACUS

I took that with dad's camera last year.

TROY

You're going to tell me this is the Loch Ness monster.

ARISTOTLE, ORPHELIA and SPARTACUS look at TROY without batting an eyelid.

ARISTOTLE

I submitted all 36 clear exposures of his film plus a detailed field study to Science & Nature magazine but they wouldn't accept it.

TROY is incredulous.

TROY

I find this very hard to believe.

The PSA alarm activates again. BEEP, BEEP, BEEP.

ARISTOTLE

I don't get it, we should be seeing something. We're right on top of it.

TROY

What?

Suddenly the bushes ruffle and WARDEN leaps out in front of the group. ORPHELIA screams, SPARTACUS covers his head. TROY stares open mouthed and ARISTOTLE sighs in disappointment. They stand up.

WARDEN

May I ask what you're doing out here Mr FRANKLYN?

TROY

Analysing things.

WARDEN

Like what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

15

TROY

Its very scientific, by the way do you always creep up on people?

WARDEN

This is private property sir.

ARISTOTLE notices that his hand scanner is reading off the scale when he points it discretely towards WARDEN.

TROY

Nobody said this area was out of bounds.

WARDEN

Are these your friends?

TROY

This is my assistant and his children. (To ARISTOTLE) Well I think we're finished here for the time being.

(obviously)

I want those samples analysed as soon as possible Mr WOOD.

ARISTOTLE

I'll run the tests straight away.

TROY

(To WARDEN) Has Lord DURETUS returned yet?

WARDEN

I'm afraid Lord DURETUS has been detained.

ARISTOTLE

I have accommodation in the area Mr FRANKLYN, it would be an honour if you stayed with us while we conduct our tests.

TROY nods to ARISTOTLE.

TROY

Its a done deal. (To WARDEN) I'll be back tomorrow.

WARDEN

Right you are sir. I'll walk back with you, we don't want you wandering off, all sorts out here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

15

The group pick up their belongings and head back the way they came.

As they depart the area, the heavy breaths of a large animal are heard.

INT. NIGHT. VOLDRAX BUILDING. OFFICE.

16

DURETUS is reading business papers. MANFRED knocks on the door.

DURETUS

Enter.

MANFRED enters and takes a seat.

DURETUS

Ah MANFRED.

He is covered in various plasters after his run in with the Iron Maiden.

DURETUS

Cut yourself shaving?

MANFRED

All line in the line of duty sir.

DURETUS

Glean any information about our Mr FRANKLYN?

MANFRED

Nothing terribly useful.

DURETUS

Have you ever been boiled in molten lead?

MANFRED

No sir.

DURETUS

Ah.

MANFRED

Excellency.

DURETUS puts his papers down.

DURETUS

I could lose everything if I'm not careful.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

16

MANFRED

You mustn't worry excellency.

DURETUS

What do mean not worry? It could slip through my fingers.

MANFRED

Didn't Valhala-thingy leave you in charge?

DURETUS

NECRELIAN. They're called NECRELIAN.

MANFRED

But you knew they would come back to replace you eventually.

DURETUS

Are you calling me some kind of a part-time caretaker?

MANFRED

No excellency.

DURETUS

I shall be King.

MANFRED

What about WISDOM and the other one?

DURETUS

I'm not afraid of two old dragons. They can be removed.

MANFRED

From what you've told me I think they'd be impervious to modern weapons.

DURETUS

There is a more obvious solution.

MANFRED

I knew you'd have something up your sleeve.

DURETUS

Draco Exstirpare.

MANFRED

Come again?

(CONTINUED)

41.

CONTINUED: (2)

16

DURETUS

A dragon catcher.

MANFRED

You can get a dragon catcher?

DURETUS

The art has almost died out, but I know of one last practitioner. Summon the dragon catcher. I want my Kingdom.

INT. NIGHT. DUSK. ARISTOTLE' HOUSE.

17

ARISTOTLE checks on SPARTACUS and ORPHELIA. Both children are tucked up in bed.

ORPHELIA

Will the dragon eat me daddy?

ARISTOTLE

Course not baby! You know those stories are just old wives tales. You're not scared are you?

SPARTACUS

I'm not scared. Anyway only the warrior dragons eat human flesh.

ARISTOTLE

Thank you son. Not another word. (To ORPHELIA) Don't worry there's no warrior dragon here, I'll always look after you.

ARISTOTLE kisses his children and moves towards the exit.

ARISTOTLE

I want you to recite the COSINE rule one hundred times and you're both going to school tomorrow.

ORPHELIA/SPARTACUS

{Both protest}

ARISTOTLE

I'm not listening, lah, lah, lah, lah. Bed!

TROY

Night, night kids.

ARISTOTLE closes the door. A muffled protest is heard.

(CONTINUED)

42.

CONTINUED:

17

ORPHELIA

We're not kids, we're children.

CUT TO

TROY is seated with his feet on the front room table. ARISTOTLE comes down stairs.

ARISTOTLE

(Repeating)

"We're not kids, we're children".

TROY

They're a real couple of characters.

ARISTOTLE

I hope so. I want my children to be somebody.

Stand up for themselves.

ARISTOTLE plonks himself down on the couch.

TROY

I think its time for you and me to have a long talk.

ARISTOTLE

Why not.

EXT. DAY. CITY.

18

MADemoiselle CELINE (the Dragon Catcher) lugs an enormous suitcase through the city streets. She stops to ask directions.

CELINE

(Thick French accent)

Pardon, Madam, La VOLDRAX Tower, s'il vous plait? (Excuse me do you know where the VOLDRAX Tower is?)

PEDESTRIAN looks blankly at CELINE.

PEDESTRIAN

VOLDRAX?

CELINE

Ah vous etes Anglais. (You are English). I forget. Which way to the VOLDRAX Building madam?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

18

PEDESTRIAN

Ah, ettes-vuus le German?

CELINE

Non, I am French. I am here for work.

PEDESTRIAN

Well just keep going along this road and you'll see the towers in the distance. Couldn't be simpler.

PEDESTRIAN walks off.

CELINE

You are very kind. Au revoir.

PEDESTRIAN

Bon-voyeur.

CELINE

Oui, "Bon-voyeur". English idiot.

CELINE puts the heavy suitcase down to take a rest. She opens it. Stuffed inside is ISMAIL BEARD (CELINE's assistant).

BEARD

Mademoiselle when will you let me out?

CELINE

Quiet. I have to make sure I'm past the customs.

BEARD

But I'm not an animal.

CELINE

You are my dog and I will treat you as such.

BEARD scowls at CELINE before she stuffs him back in and closes the suitcase.

INT. DAY. ARISTOTLE HOUSE.

19

TROY finishes his breakfast. The VOLDRAX architectural plans half poke out of the envelope they were posted in next to TROY's other papers. SPARTACUS and ORPHELIA have left their empty cereal bowls on the table. ARISTOTLE fiddles with his hand scanner.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

19

TROY

That's a pretty amazing history you've got.

ARISTOTLE

Which bit did you find amazing? The bit were my wife left me for another man or learning that a grown man believes in cryptomorphs?

TROY

Why not just call them goblins or dragons, I know you're dying too.

ARISTOTLE

I'll stick to cryptomorphs until I learn otherwise.

TROY

Why didn't your wife take SPARTACUS and ORPHELIA?

ARISTOTLE

(Laughs) Jenny! She's as selfish as they come. I think the children were a hinderance for her. Besides I wanted them.

TROY

You're life style isn't very....

ARISTOTLE

...Stable. What, I should be like the masses and tow the line? My children never go short, they're bright. You'll never find a parent who loves his kids more than me.

TROY

You've got me. Each to his own I suppose.

ARISTOTLE

Look, I don't expect you to believe me.

TROY

Alright, for the sake of argument I'll go along with your theory. How do we find this Keeper?

ARISTOTLE points at the VOLDRAX blueprints.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

19

ARISTOTLE

Lets start here.

INT. DAY. CITY. VOLDRAX BUILDING. STOREROOM.

20

DURETUS and MANFRED walk through a large storeroom. The room is full of ominous monoliths covered by dustsheets.

DURETUS walks around gleefully rubbing his hands. MANFRED shrugs his shoulders.

DURETUS

Nervous?

MANFRED

This place. Is there something you wanted to show me?

A voice calls out in the dark room.

VORT

Who's there?

DURETUS

You're awake.

VORT IGEN has been chained to the wall. He appears shabby and unkempt.

VORT

Release me liar.

DURETUS

Harsh words. Doesn't this accommodation suit you my friend?

VORT

I would never count a traitor amongst my friends.

DURETUS

(To MANFRED) See how ungrateful people were back then.

MANFRED

What a disgusting man.

DURETUS

I have some excellent news for you Keeper.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

20

VORT

What, you're going to impale yourself on a broadsword.

DURETUS

Mirth. (DURETUS kicks VORT) I'm going to use The Legion to take back the kingdom.

VORT looks up sharply.

MANFRED

The who?

DURETUS turns to face the shrouded monoliths.

DURETUS

I've managed to keep these hidden.

DURETUS gestures for MANFRED to pick a shrouded monolith.

DURETUS

Pick one.

MANFRED pulls the dust cover away.

DURETUS

Behold.

Beneath the cover are two of the most fearsome looking men imaginable. Both brandish mighty weapons but remain curiously inanimate, frozen inside a "Fire of Life" crystal.

MANFRED looks quizzically to DURETUS.

MANFRED

My god. You were in one of these?

DURETUS

Entombed like an insect in amber, precisely frozen in time.

MANFRED

Are they still alive?

DURETUS

Of course they are fool. How do you think I survived?

DURETUS admires his Legion.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

20

DURETUS

A legion of hand picked warriors.

MANFRED

You're own personal army.

VORT

They're duty is to protect the sovereignty of Ironbrawn until the dragons return...

DURETUS

...But I will use them to ride across Britain and claim it for my own.

VORT

So what's stopping you?

DURETUS holds the amulets up.

DURETUS

Nothing. I have two amulets, you have given me the third and soon I shall have the fourth.

DURETUS smashes a clay maquette of WAR on the ground.

The frame closes in on the entombed Legion warriors.

EXT. DAY. CITY. VOLDRAX BUILDING.

21

TROY and ARISTOTLE head through the city towards the VOLDRAX building.

TROY

It makes sense on DURETUS's part to stash the Keeper out of sight.

ARISTOTLE rummages through his bag looking for his hand scanner.

ARISTOTLE

We should be able to pick him up by his latent field traces.

TROY

Seeing is believing.

ARISTOTLE

It must be hard for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

21

TROY

What do you mean?

ARISTOTLE

Locked in your little accountancy world of numbers.

TROY

Spare me the lecture. Your life isn't so perfect ...dad.

ARISTOTLE

I had two scanners in here. {my bag }

TROY

Don't tell me you've left them at home.

ARISTOTLE finds a hand scanner and activates it.

ARISTOTLE

I've got it.

TROY

Does it work through walls?

ARISTOTLE

It can detect a mouse wearing slippers through three inch steel.

TROY takes out the architectural plans from the A4 envelope. He points out the details.

TROY

I was looking at these. See these doorways?

ARISTOTLE

They're all dead ends.

TROY

Uh ah. I don't think so. I think they all lead into a larger chamber which has been rubbed out.

ARISTOTLE

Clever.

TROY

Come on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

21

TROY and ARISTOTLE disappears round the back of the building.

The back of the building is solid brick. ARISTOTLE looks around and sees several doors which have been sealed up.

TROY

That's it then.

ARISTOTLE

Wimp.

TROY

Ever heard of breaking and entry?

ARISTOTLE

To make an omelette you have to break a few eggs. Don't you want to find out what DURETUS is really up to? You know it makes sense.

TROY

I'd rather keep my job. [PAUSE] We'll wait till tonight. It'll be easier to get in.

INT. DAY. VOLDRAX BUILDING. OFFICE.

22

{DURETUS day dreams }

VORT approaches him. DURETUS turns to face VORT. VORT draws his sword (Enquinamin) as if he is about to strike DURETUS, but he merely bows deeply.

VORT

The preparations for the handover should be made straight away.

DURETUS

I have no intention of handing anything over.

VORT

This is NECRELIAN's rightful domain. They own this kingdom.

DURETUS

Look around you. Do you seriously think I would let them take all this back?

VORT

But it's not yours.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

22

DURETUS smashes his flagon into the table spilling the contents.

DURETUS

Well it's mine now!

CUT TO/FADE

MANFRED enters the office. DURETUS wakes from his day dream.

MANFRED

Excellency permit me to present.....

CELINE (The Dragon Catcher) pushes MANFRED to one side as she moves past him. BEARD follows some way behind. CELINE boldly walks up to DURETUS and takes a seat. She helps herself to food on his table.

CELINE

(Thick French regional accent)

I am Mademoiselle Celine. You requested my services.

DURETUS

I don't make requests, I issue demands.

CELINE

As you like it.

MANFRED

She is the dragon catcher.

CELINE

Oui, that is my profession. More wine.

SECRETARY fetches more wine.

MANFRED

You weren't invited to sit at the table.

CELINE

(Indicating MANFRED) Who is this?

DURETUS

Leave her MANFRED.

CELINE

(To MANFRED) Do you clean his truss?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

22

MANFRED

Madam!

CELINE

Non, I am mademoiselle. Try to remember this.
You make me sound old and crotchety.

DURETUS

You don't look like a dragon catcher. They can be
quite viscous when provoked.

CELINE

I can be the same.

DURETUS

(To MANFRED) Isn't she deliciously vulgar?

CELINE

I can be vulgar as well.

DURETUS

Why should I employ you?

CELINE stops eating and fixes her gaze on DURETUS.

CELINE

Because you have a problem and I can remove this
problem.

DURETUS

What do you want in return?

CELINE

Nothing.

MANFRED

Nothing?

DURETUS

Everybody wants something.

CELINE

True. Killing the dragons will give me
satisfaction. But there is the question of
economics. I will charge you one million English
pounds.

MANFRED

A million pounds.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

22

DURETUS

I'll double that if you bring the amulet worn by the warrior dragon.

CELINE

My methods are unconventional.

DURETUS

I don't care. Just do it.

MANFRED

Excellency....

DURETUS indicates for MANFRED to be quite. CELINE gives a final belch and sits back from the table.

CELINE

What is the highest part of this building?

MANFRED

The south tower. You can over-look the whole city.

CELINE

Bon, I will start work tonight. Now I must have rest.

CELINE turns to exit the room.

DURETUS

You won't let me down will you?

CELINE turns on DURETUS.

CELINE

I must have my beauty sleep if I am to be at my best. Now if you please I must leave you.

CELINE looks from DURETUS to MANFRED as if to ask "any last petty questions?" before turning again and walking towards the door. On the way she grabs BEARD roughly by the hair/ear and pulls him along.

CELINE

Come idiot.

INT. NIGHT. VOLDRAX BUILDING. STOREROOM.

23

TROY and ARISTOTLE move about cautiously. The door they entered through hangs at an odd angle in it's frame. TROY carefully stands a long handled lump hammer in the corner.

ARISTOTLE

Did you have to hit it quiet so hard?

TROY

We got in. I can put it back so you wouldn't know the difference. Come on.

The hand scanner alarm activates. BEEP, BEEP, BEEP.

TROY

Can't you turn that thing down?

ARISTOTLE

The signals buried the needle. We're right on top of something.

TROY

I just hope its not the WARDEN again.

ARISTOTLE

I took a reading off him. He'd been near a Cryptomorph alright.

TROY

We'll see.

They slink off further into the storeroom.

ARISTOTLE

You're really into it now.

TROY's shoulder clips something on a shelf causing it to fall off. It clatters to the floor.

VORT

Who's there? Come into the light were I can see you.

TROY and ARISTOTLE freeze.

VORT

Have you come back to gloat?

TROY moves forward.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

23

TROY

Don't panic. My name is TROY, TROY FRANKLYN. Are you the Keeper?

VORT

You know of me?

TROY

Blimey.

ARISTOTLE

Its true. Yes, yes!

VORT

Why does my predicament bring you such happiness?

TROY rushes over to VORT. He sees the chains.

TROY

Why are you chained?

ARISTOTLE retrieves bolt cutters from his back-pack. He attempts to cut through VORT's chains.

VORT

The General did this to me.

TROY

You mean... DURETUS?

VORT

(Nodding) He released me from the crystal, now his heart is fuelled by greed. We must stop him.

ARISTOTLE

I'm ARISTOTLE. What's he going to do?

ARISTOTLE succeeds in cutting the chains.

VORT

Unspeakable horrors.

TROY and ARISTOTLE help VORT to his feet. VORT is shaky.

TROY

Nice and easy.

VORT

Freedom at last. What time am I in?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

23

TROY

Its 9:14 PM.

ARISTOTLE

No, I think he means year. (To VORT) Its the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety eight anno domini (1998 A.D.).

VORT stumbles back in shock. TROY and ARISTOTLE struggle to support him. ARISTOTLE retrieves his fax paper.

VORT

I've been asleep for two thousand years.

TROY looks surprised. ARISTOTLE shows the Fax paper to VORT.

ARISTOTLE

That's you isn't it?

VORT pins ARISTOTLE to the wall.

VORT

The Kingdom book. How did you come by this? Tell me.

ARISTOTLE

I down loaded the file...

VORT releases his grip on ARISTOTLE.

TROY

...We can take you there.

VORT

You must do so at once.

TROY

First, you're going to have a bath!

VORT stretches.

VORT

NECRELIAN will return soon. I must prepare the way for them.

ARISTOTLE

Describe NECRELIAN to me.

VORT points to the dragons illustrated on the fax paper. TROY and ARISTOTLE look at each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

23

TROY

This is deep.

The men exit the storeroom.

A solitary CCTV camera pans away from where TROY, ARISTOTLE and VORT stood.

CUT TO

DURETUS observes the storeroom (picture relayed via the CCTV).

DURETUS

The circle closes.

EXT. NIGHT. DUSK. VOLDRAX BUILDING. SOUTH TOWER.

24

CELINE sits on the edge stone right at the top of the tower. She has an unlimited view of the whole city and countryside.

CELINE

The number seven.

BEARD

Don't you ever say please?

CELINE

Would you prefer me to beat you or say please?

BEARD

I'm sorry mama.

CELINE

You are not my baby you ugly pig. The dragons took my son, you are a dog.

CELINE's outburst causes BEARD to cower back. His eyes moisten. CELINE relents....

CELINE

Come here. Come on.

BEARD cautiously moves towards CELINE's open arms. She hugs him for a second then deftly swings him out over the edge of the tower. BEARD dangles in mid air (above a three hundred foot drop) by his jacket.

BEARD

Mama, mama!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

24

CELINE

I am not your mama.

BEARD

I'm scared.

CELINE

Next time you call me mama I will let go. Do you understand?

BEARD

Yes mademoiselle.

CELINE swings BEARD back in.

CELINE

Bon. I'm still waiting for the number seven.

BEARD pulls himself together and rummages through the telescope bag. CELINE sits with her back to him.

CELINE

Give it to me. Give it to me.

BEARD toys with the idea of pushing her off the tower edge.

CELINE

Quick before I lose my temper.

BEARD rummages through the bag and passes CELINE the number seven telescope. CELINE focuses on the distant sky.

BEARD

Can you see anything?

CELINE

Shush idiot. Let me focus.

GREED (Draco Minimax Avaritia) flies over the city/forrest in the far distance.

CELINE

I see one, write this down. Genus Draco
Minimax, species Avaritia.

BEARD records the details in a logbook.

BEARD

What's it doing?

CELINE continues observing. NAIVETY (Draco Minimax Simplex) formates with GREED.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

24

CELINE

Shut up imbecile. Write this. Second dragon.
Genus Draco Minimax ...species Simplex.

CELINE removes the telescope from her eye.

BEARD

Two different species in the same area.

CELINE

This is unprecedented!

BEARD

You know what this means...

CELINE

...This is a sanctuary.

The winter sun rises over the city.

EXT. DAY. FOREST.

25

The bushes shimmy as something moves through them. SPARTACUS emerges from the dense undergrowth a few metres ahead of ORPHELIA. He carries the second hand scanner.

ORPHELIA

Now what?

SPARTACUS holds the scanner up to the horizon. The hand scanner chirps and beeps.

SPARTACUS

This way.

The children set off again.

INT. DAY. VOLDRAX BUILDING.

26

DURETUS and MANFRED overlook the city. On the table in front of them are two of the iron amulets. Empty place holders await the third and fourth.

From DURETUS's vantage point, the city people go about their everyday tasks.

DURETUS

Look at them. Just like ants before you pour hot
water into their nest.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

26

DURETUS turns away from the window and brings the package (which TROY delivered to Brackenbridge; in its highly recognisable packaging) on to the table. He proceeds to unwrap and admire the amulet.

DURETUS

No I have... three.

CELINE bursts into the office followed by SECRETARY.

SECRETARY

I tried to stop her.

DURETUS

(To CELINE) Don't you understand the principal of knocking?

DURETUS waves SECRETARY away.

CELINE

Are you hiding something in here?

DURETUS

Of course not.

CELINE

Then why must I always knock? You are too reticent.

MANFRED

Shall I remove her?

CELINE hisses at MANFRED. MANFRED backs off.

DURETUS

Is there something you want?

CELINE

I have spent all night observing from a place of great height and I have identified five separate species of dragon.

DURETUS

Five!

{She places B+W photographs of the dragons in flight on the table}

CELINE

For simplicity I call them by their human names; WAR, WISDOM, GREED, NAIVETY and VANITY.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

26

DURETUS

I know of WAR and WISDOM, but not the others.

MANFRED

I thought you knew all about vanity and greed.

MANFRED realises his candour is not welcome. DURETUS scowls.

CELINE

The task will be harder to complete.

MANFRED

(To DURETUS) Does she want more money?

CELINE

I don't want more money idiot.

DURETUS

So what have you come for?

CELINE

You did not tell me this was a sanctuary.

DURETUS

A sanctuary?

CELINE

When three or more species of dragon are seen in the same area, then it becomes a sanctuary. It is nature's law.

DURETUS

So.

CELINE

So means, they will breed here. What is the name of their blood line?

DURETUS

NECRELIAN.

CELINE

J'etre au courant de ce qui se passe. (I like to be informed what's going on)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

26

DURETUS

English please!

CELINE

NECRELIAN are the worst kind.... Gaston my bebe.

CELINE clutches her chest and staggers back in shock. DURETUS helps support CELINE.

DURETUS

Are you alright?

CELINE

Its him. He is here.

MANFRED

Would you like some water?

CELINE

Non, I will recover shortly.

DURETUS

One of the dragons took your baby?

CELINE

WAR of NECRELIAN took my Gaston. I am convinced it was this dragon which robed me.

DURETUS

I thought they stopped doing that...

CELINE short circuits. She rounds on DURETUS again.

CELINE

...Then make me a liar. I found this (claw) embedded in the wall outside my bebe's nursery. Dragons never shed their claws.

DURETUS and the others study the claw.

MANFRED

So how do you know it belongs to WAR?

CELINE opens her waistcoat/tunic to reveal dozens of dragon claws.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

26

CELINE

Because I have hunted nearly every other living dragon and they all had their claws. WAR is the only one who would kill like this.

DURETUS

You killed all those dragons?

CELINE

Oui and now I have found my bebe's murderer.

DURETUS

What's your plan?

CELINE

One by one they will be mine.

EXT. DAY. CITY.

27

TROY, ARISTOTLE and VORT walk through the city. VORT is enraptured.

ARISTOTLE

Just think of all the changes he doesn't know about in the last 2000 years.

TROY.

I think he's in for a few shocks then.

The men approach a High street clothes store.

TROY

This will do.

INT. DAY. ARISTOTLE'S HOUSE.

SCENE 28

ARISTOTLE and TROY wait in the drawing room.

TROY

I hope VORT's not drowned himself in the shower.

(TROY indicates to the pianos)

I would have never put you down as the musical type.

ARISTOTLE

No, I brought them for SPARTACUS and ORPHELIA. I used to play years ago, but I never kept it up.

TROY

Not enough hours in the day.

ARISTOTLE

You're telling me. Between getting them ready for school and my research, time just evaporates.

TROY

If I played an instrument I would be a clarinet man.

ARISTOTLE

You could pass for Acker Bilk now you come to mention it.

TROY

Yeah, and you're space cadet number one.

ARISTOTLE

Oh, touchy.

Someone (JENNY) can be heard opening the front door. ARISTOTLE checks his watch and immediately tries to sit upright. TROY looks at him.

TROY

What?

JENNY (ARISTOTLE's super business woman ex-wife) enters the room. She is dressed in a light business suit, hair up and carries a well made overcoat.

ARISTOTLE

Jenny!

JENNY looks at ARISTOTLE then over to TROY. There is a look of disdain on her face.

JENNY

Harry, whose this?

TROY stands and offers his hand.

TROY

Hi, I'm TROY FRANKLIN.

JENNY gives TROY a look of contempt and hands him her overcoat.

JENNY

Is he another one of your weird friends? Not found the "Soup Dragon" yet?

ARISTOTLE is use to JENNY's scathing rudeness.

ARISTOTLE

Hello Jenny, how are you; SPARTACUS and ORPHELIA are both fine just in case you forget to ask about our children.

JENNY

Don't play sarcasm with me Harry. You know you'll lose.

ARISTOTLE

I never liked you calling me 'Harry'.

JENNY

Yes that's right. You couldn't have a normal name, you have to be different.

ARISTOTLE

Oh come on. Are we back to that one again? Let me travel back in time and tell my parents to name me Philip or Anthony or whatever you think I should be called. That reminds me, how is "Mr Chocolate"?

Unnoticed, TROY senses a 'domestic' storm brewing. He retires to his seat and watches the battle.

JENNY

I wish you wouldn't call him that. You're hardly in a position to throw stones. Look at you.

ARISTOTLE

(To TROY) Do you know why I call my ex-wife's boyfriend "Mr Chocolate"....?

TROY motions his hand as if to say "please leave me out of this"

ARISTOTLE

...because he could eat himself. Peter Perfect.

JENNY is about to launch into a heated tirade but holds herself back.

JENNY

Very good. You've been practising.

ARISTOTLE

Don't kid yourself.

JENNY

I won't be staying long. I'll get the rest of our things and be on my way. You can get back to chasing fairies and your Roswell stories with (gesturing to TROY) 'Beardy-weirdy' here.

JENNY turns to exit.

ARISTOTLE

Just one thing.

JENNY

What?

ARISTOTLE

I don't want you bringing Peter or your other boyfriends here. I won't have the children seeing a string of different men going through the house.

JENNY turns back to ARISTOTLE. They glare at each other. JENNY uncoils her hand to strike ARISTOTLE, but half way through the swipe she loses her anger. She cups ARISTOTLE's cheek.

JENNY

That's not fair.

ARISTOTLE

You never gave me a chance. You know I still love you. I don't like you... well at least 75 per cent of the time, but I still love you.

JENNY

Don't. We've gone too far. I don't feel the same. Tell the kids I'll see them at the weekend. (To TROY) I'm sorry you had to hear that.

JENNY turns and walks out the door and up the stairs.

ARISTOTLE

(Paraphrasing)

They're not kids, they're our children.

ARISTOTLE recovers his seat. TROY looks on.

TROY

Are you okay?

ARISTOTLE

I can assure you, if I look okay, I don't feel it.

TROY

Well if its any consolation, I have no idea what you're going through.

ARISTOTLE

Thanks.

TROY

No, I mean that. I love children and I admire anybody who has them, but I know I couldn't cope like you.

ARISTOTLE

Believe me, you adapt amazingly quickly. I've had some sleepless nights....[worrying about the bills and if the kids are happy...].

ARISTOTLE is cut off by a high pitched shriek (JENNY) followed by a much deeper male one (VORT).

TROY

VORT's upstairs!

JENNY

VO: (To VORT) Who the hell are you?

ARISTOTLE

I think she's found him.

VORT

VO: (To JENNY) Woman avert your gaze from my nakedness.

TROY

(To VORT) VORT she's ARISTOTLE's wife.

JENNY can be heard returning to the dining room.

ARISTOTLE

How do we explain this one?

TROY

Lets tell her we found a 2000 year old cave man who looks after dragons.

ARISTOTLE

You are kidding, aren't you?

JENNY comes bounding back into the room.

TROY

Hello again.

JENNY

(To ARISTOTLE) They've not been trying on my dresses have they?

ARISTOTLE

He's just a friend who is taking a simple shower. I should have mentioned he was upstairs but I forgot. Is that okay for you?

JENNY

You're on such thin ice Harry.

ARISTOTLE

(Angrily)

ARISTOTLE. My name is ARISTOTLE.

TROY interjects.

TROY

Excuse me. You have guests.

JENNY and ARISTOTLE both turn to TROY....

JENNY/ARISTOTLE

Shut up.

VORT enters the room. His hair is wet from the shower (and has been cut?). He is dressed in a sweat shirt, jeans and hiking boots all loaned from ARISTOTLE.

VORT

(To ARISTOTLE) This is your woman?

JENNY

I'm not anybody's woman. (To ARISTOTLE) I bought you that shirt, why is he wearing it!

ARISTOTLE

His clothes were dirty so I let him have some of my stuff.

TROY

Lumberjack look suits you.

VORT

I cut my hair to suit your modern conventions.

JENNY looks warily between the three men.

JENNY

I'll just get the rest of my things and leave you. Two 'Beardy-Weirdys' in the house is enough for any sane woman.

JENNY turns to exit the room again. She passes TROY.

JENNY

I'd like to say it was a pleasure meeting you but I won't.

TROY

Like wise. Have a nice day JENNY. You deserve it.

JENNY lingers on TROY for a brief moment then exits the room.

VORT

My wife had fire too. Do you wrestle with her?

ARISTOTLE

She'd beat me every time.

TROY

Guys, time is moving on.

VORT

Yes we must return to the matter at hand.

TROY

I want to meet DURETUS in person, see if I can wheedle anything out of him.

ARISTOTLE

The WARDEN said he should be back today.

VORT

What do you know about DURETUS?

TROY

He's hiding something at Brackenbridge estate.

VORT

How many days travel is it from here?

TROY

Days travel! We'll use the car. Brum, brum...

VORT is non-plussed for a moment until he remembers his first car journey.

VORT

Ah, the horseless chariot.

TROY

You certainly have a way with words.

EXT. DAY. VOLDRAX BUILDING. DURETUS'S OFFICE.

29

The three amulets sit on the table. CELINE runs her fingers over them. A single Niobium Ferrite steel ring appears in her other hand. She places this in the centre of the table.

CELINE

Come to mama.

The ring lurches several inches across the table.

CELINE

Now dance for me.

The rings up ends itself and slowly starts to rotate on its circumference.

CELINE

Faster, vite, vite!

She claps her hands. A raging gale whips up from nowhere. The ring has now split into two rings which spin wildly on the spot next to each other.

CELINE laughs with giddy excitement.

CELINE

Faster, the speed of thunder.

She claps her hands again. Thunder claps boom and crackle. The gale blows fiercely. CELINE is lost in her heady mixture of witchcraft and exotic magic.

CELINE

More power, more of everything. The speed of lightening.

She claps her hands for a third time. Yet more wind blows and thunder booms. Lightening flashes both inside and through the windows. Three rings now spin, then four and finally five. CELINE channels the elemental forces before invoking them to cease.

The five rings glisten in soft candle light. CELINE watches over them.

CELINE

No do your work.

EXT. DAY. TROY'S CAR.

30

Near Brackenbridge mansion.

TROY pulls up in his car near to Brackenbridge mansion. VORT eases himself back into the seat. He is nearly hyper-ventilating (never been in a car before).

VORT

Your chariot has great speed.

TROY

Its not a chariot, its a car. Try and relax, you're perfectly safe.

VORT eases further down into the seat but remains tense.

VORT

Are you sure your friend couldn't come along?

TROY

ARISTOTLE? He' got children to look out for.

VORT

I had children...

TROY

What happened to them?

TROY senses VORT's upset. The subject changes.

VORT

The kin of NECRELIAN will soon return to breed.

TROY

They sound Dutch or something.

VORT

No, they're dragons.

TROY is still sceptical.

TROY

You really believe that crap. There's some kind of cryptomorph, sorry dragon walking around the countryside?

VORT

'Strass NECRELIAN' is the collective name for their bloodline. I was the Keeper of their lair.

TROY

You looked after them.

VORT

Yes, in a manner of speaking?

TROY

So what's the connection between these 'dragons' and DURETUS?

VORT

Brackenbridge is their last natural breeding ground. 2000 years ago there was a battle between us and the Dragons. They won. We vowed to protect their sacred ground until they returned to breed. DURETUS was appointed General to stand guard with a Legion of Warriors.

TROY

Legion of warriors?

VORT

One hundred warriors from the D'Cate (Du-Cart) tribe. They wait for DURETUS's word. Now he wants to destroy the dragons and claim Britain as his own kingdom.

TROY

Why hasn't he done it already?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

30

VORT

He needs energy the KHAL'L, an energy source harnessed within four bronze amulets to unleash the warriors.

TROY

How big are these amulets?

VORT gestures.

VORT

Like this {size}

TROY

(Mutters) The package. Damn, I think I've given him one for free.

TROY laughs in nervous manner.

TROY

This is doing my head in.

VORT is supremely calm and reassuring. He looks over to TROY.

VORT

Be still within yourself my friend.

The two men exchange glances.

TROY

Okay, okay. Seeing is believing.

TROY starts his engine again and pulls up to the mansion.

EXT. DAY. VOLDRAX BUILDING. GARDENS?/OFFICE.

31

BEARD picks flowers.

CELINE

Imbecile what are you doing?

BEARD

I'm meditating. Its good for stress.

CELINE slings two pairs of boots at BEARD.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

31

CELINE

Huh. You have stress? How can you have stress without a brain? Clean my boots idiot.

BEARD

Oui mademoiselle, (Whispers) pig face.

BEARD's flowers have wilted and shrivelled.

EXT. DAY. MANSION. FORECOURT.

32

TROY pulls up in his car. This time DURETUS appears at the front step to greet him. VORT ducks down out of sight.

VORT

Its him.

TROY

Can you make your own way from here?

VORT

I'll be fine.

TROY and VORT clasps hands in friendship.

TROY

I'll see you later then.

VORT

Travel swiftly.

TROY climbs out of the car and heads towards DURETUS.

TROY

Lord DURETUS.

DURETUS

You must be Franklyn. I thought you may drop by.

TROY

I take it you received the package?

DURETUS

Its in a safe place.

They head towards the house.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

32

TROY

I'm sorry we couldn't meet the other night.

DURETUS

You know how it is. Money makes the world go round.

TROY

Brackenbridge is a big estate. I'd love to see more of it.

DURETUS's grin falters.

DURETUS

We'll see what we can do.

TROY

Thanks. That would be appreciated.

As TROY and DURETUS enter the house, VORT makes a dash towards the forest (FOREST). MANFRED watches him.

INT. DAY. LOUNGE.

33

TROY and DURETUS drink tea.

TROY

This is all very pleasant.

DURETUS

I'm very proud of Brackenbridge. It's my home and I sacrificed a lot to get here.

TROY

Your share of DURETUS ROLSTON and BEZZENCOTE, false accounting, shall I go on?

DURETUS

Lets not beat around the bush Franklyn.

TROY

Okay. (Prying) That package was more than your Roladex wasn't it?

DURETUS

My, you are inquisitive.

(CONTINUED)

71.

CONTINUED:

33

TROY

I don't think your masters will be to pleased with your plans.

DURETUS

So you know about the NECRELIAN - the dragons?

TROY

Seeing is believing.

DURETUS

Oh they're real alright. If its a question of money Franklyn.

TROY

Didn't anybody tell you, you can't buy me?

DURETUS

Then perhaps you've just priced yourself out of the market. And we all know what happens to unwanted stock.

TROY turns to exit the room.

TROY

I've got a job to do. I'll find my way to the front door.

TROY exits the lounge. DURETUS waits for TROY to clear the room.

DURETUS

What did you find out?

MANFRED

He's made contact with the Keeper.

DURETUS

Things have progressed even better than I expected.

EXT. DAY. MANSION.

34

TROY heads towards his car which is parked round the side of the mansion. His mobile phone rings.

TROY

Hello TROY FRANKLYN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

34

ARISTOTLE

TROY its ARISTOTLE. I can't find my children.

TROY

Have they gone walk about again? Did you try the school?

ARISTOTLE

They didn't show up today.

TROY

Great...

SPARTACUS taps TROY's shoulder causing him to turn round with a start.

TROY

(To ARISTOTLE) Hang on a second I've got someone here who wants to speak to you.

TROY hands the mobile to SPARTACUS.

SPARTACUS

Hi dad.

ARISTOTLE

(Trying to remain calm) SPARTACUS where are you and your sister?

SPARTACUS

At Brackenbridge.

ARISTOTLE

Are you alright?

SPARTACUS

We're fine dad. How are you?

ARISTOTLE

You can't charm your way out of this one son of mine. I want you to stay with TROY until I get there. Is that understood?

SPARTACUS

Yes dad. I'll hand you back to TROY.

TROY

I'll keep an eye on them.

SPARTACUS and ORPHELIA argue.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

34

SPARTACUS

I told you he'd be angry.

ORPHELIA

You said we should find the Keeper.

TROY

(To Children) Gang, do you mind? {I'm on the phone here} (To ARISTOTLE) We'll drive down to the side gate and meet you there.

ARISTOTLE

Okay. I'll see you in one hour.

EXT. DAY. ESTATE.

35

ARISTOTLE makes his way through the forest taking a short cut to the estate's side gate and TROY's car. The bushes rustle near him. ARISTOTLE scans the area with his PSA. It shows positive. ARISTOTLE quickens his pace. Heavy animal breaths are heard. The breaths are close by and following ARISTOTLE. He speeds up.

The animal snorts loudly. ARISTOTLE starts running.

Something (VORT) jumps out from the bushes and pins him to the ground.

VORT

ARISTOTLE!

ARISTOTLE

Are you trying to kill me? Didn't you hear that... thing?

VORT helps ARISTOTLE up.

VORT

Don't worry.

ARISTOTLE

{Ah} You know something I don't.

VORT

Where is TROY?

ARISTOTLE

He's parked up with my children.

VORT

You brought children out here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

35

ARISTOTLE

I didn't bring them, they invited themselves.

CUT TO

TROY's car. ORPHELIA and SPARTACUS are asleep. VORT and ARISTOTLE approach and climb inside.

ARISTOTLE

Thanks for looking after them.

TROY

No problem.

VORT

I can't believe he brought children out here.

ARISTOTLE

(In deference to VORT) I'll chain them to the bed next time. Any way, where have you been?

VORT

I've been to the interior. The nesting time draws near.

TROY

What do we do about these two?

ARISTOTLE

They'll be okay here. SPARTACUS slept right through the 1987 gales.

TROY

Just as long as your sure.

The men ease themselves out of the car, moving very slowly so as not to wake SPARTACUS and ORPHELIA.

VORT leads them into the forest.

EXT. DAY. FOREST.

36

The men continue to head deeper into the interior. ARISTOTLE reads his PSA.

ARISTOTLE

I'm getting some good readings.
Omni-directional. Wow its going crazy.

(CONTINUED)

75.

CONTINUED:

36

VORT

Why do you waste time with such a contraption?

TROY

He's a scientist, don't ask.

ARISTOTLE excitedly shows his scanner display to TROY.

ARISTOTLE

Look at that. Full scale deflection. (To VORT)
Why don't we see anything?

VORT looks about then calls to WISDOM.

VORT

WISDOM, make yourself known to us.

Completely by surprise WISDOM 'materialises' in front of TROY, VORT and ARISTOTLE. She looms down to take a closer look at the men.

TROY's mouth is agape. ARISTOTLE takes one step forward.

ARISTOTLE

I've waited all my life to see this and I think I'm
going to... {faint}

ARISTOTLE keels over. TROY stands in shock and disbelief.

VORT

(To WISDOM) DURETUS has evil at his heart.

WISDOM

Choosing him was a mistake.

TROY continues to "gawp".

WISDOM

Strange, your friend's jaw nearly reaches the grass.

VORT

He's never seen a your kind before.

WISDOM

He has now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

36

TROY

An actual real dragon!

ARISTOTLE regains consciousness and stands up.

WISDOM

(To TROY) It's a shock human, you'll get use to it.

VORT

TROY, meet Draco Minimax Sapiens. (To WISDOM) The other one is ARISTOTLE.

TROY

Hi?

ARISTOTLE

Draco Minimax Sapiens, that's your species name right?

WISDOM

Most call me WISDOM.

ARISTOTLE scribbles prodigious notes in his jotter.

WISDOM

You humans are called Homo Sapiens, I'm Draco Sapiens.

TROY

I suppose when you go to the zoo, you don't get too many animals discussing their scientific name with you.

VORT and WISDOM look at TROY non plussed. ARISTOTLE tentatively touches WISDOM's skin (leg?). WISDOM swings round and gently bowls/butts ARISTOTLE over with her head.

WISDOM

Do you mind?

ARISTOTLE

Sorry... miss.

TROY

You have to excuse him, he'd measure your inside leg if you gave him the chance.

VORT

(To TROY and ARISTOTLE) That would not be advisable.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

36

ARISTOTLE

Does all your species exhibit deliberate epidermal pigment displacement or is it just a trait in females?

WISDOM

You mean are we all chameleons?

ARISTOTLE

(Glee)

This is great. I can actually ask you questions and get answers!

VORT steps in between ARISTOTLE and WISE.

VORT

DURETUS has three amulets in his possession.

WISDOM

The legion?

VORT

They're at his disposal.

WISDOM

How many of your kind can we count on?

TROY

You can count on me. I'm right behind you.

ARISTOTLE

Count me in too.

WISDOM

Walk with me.

WISDOM, TROY, ARISTOTLE and VORT walk through the forest.

TROY

Where do you come from?

WISDOM

We roamed here thousand of years before sons of Eve had their first fire light. When your kind came we made a pact with them to keep this land.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

36

WISDOM (Cont'd)

But your incessant greed lead to terrible wars between us. Now there are a mere handful of us spread around the five continents. We are forced to stay hidden and only emerge to breed once every 2000 years.

VORT

In time this land became Ironbrawn...

TROY

...Then Brackenbridge.

VORT

The true King will be chosen by the newborn dragon.

ARISTOTLE

(To WISDOM and VORT) I've got a ton of questions I want to ask both of you...

VORT

....Right now we need a plan.

WISDOM

I should have listened to WAR, DURETUS can't be trusted.

TROY

Who's WAR?

VORT

Draco Bellare, a warrior dragon.

TROY

(Looking to VORT) He's the one who'll guard the egg you told me about?

VORT nods in the affirmative.

WISDOM

Yes. WAR will guard the egg of the next dragon in our bloodline.

TROY

I've just got a feeling that DURETUS will attempt to smash the egg or come after you somehow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

36

WISDOM

If we joined forces we could stop him.

VORT

(To WISDOM) Gather the rest of your kin, its time we held council.

EXT. DAY. FORREST.

37

ORPHELIA and SPARTACUS wander away from TROY's car.

SPARTACUS

Dad said to wait here.

ORPHELIA

Do you do everything you're told?

ORPHELIA confidently treks on through the forest. After a few hesitant moments SPARTACUS reluctantly follows.

CUT TO

Picturesque clearing. CELINE is disguised as Grand-mere CELINE (Grandmother CELINE). She is knitting. BEARD emerges from inside her custom built "wendy" house. He wears a Chef's hat and is covered in flour.

CELINE

Have you finished making the pastry?

BEARD

Yes mademoiselle.

CELINE

So what are you waiting for?

BEARD

You can't use children for bait, its not right.

CELINE

You stupid man. Don't question my methods, my wages keep you fed non?

BEARD can't answer.

CELINE

Go and hide yourself. They are coming.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

37

ORPHELIA and SPARTACUS pick flowers as they walk through the forest. They round a corner and see Grand-mere CELINE's house. CELINE gets into character by knitting a huge vest.

ORPHELIA

Look at that house.

SPARTACUS

Who's that old woman?

In full view of the children, Grand-mere CELINE drops her knitting needle and feebly attempts to pick it up. She deliberately falls out of her chair.

CELINE

Help me children.

They rush over to CELINE and pick her up.

SPARTACUS

Did you hurt yourself?

CELINE

Non. I am just a foolish old woman who has lost her knitting needle. What are your names?

ORPHELIA

I'm ORPHELIA this is my brother SPARTACUS.

CELINE

I am Grand-mere CELINE. You are such clever children, will you help me find my needle so that I can finish this vest for my grandson?

CELINE holds the vest up. It is already ten times too big.

SPARTACUS

Where did it fall?

CELINE

I don't know, it could be anywhere.

They quickly look around themselves.

SPARTACUS

I can't see anything.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

37

CELINE

(Starts crying)

I will never finish the vest now and my grand son
will freeze in the cold.

ORPHELIA

Don't cry Grand-mere CELINE. Have you got a
spare needle?

CELINE

Oui, there is one in my house.

SPARTACUS

I'll go.

SPARTACUS darts off into CELINE's peculiar little wendy house.

CELINE

And for you my little pastry; follow your brother
and fetch a jug of hot cocoa to keep us warm. Its
in my pantry.

ORPHELIA zooms off.

ORPHELIA

Cocoa yummy.

CELINE stands up and clicks her fingers as ORPHELIA disappears inside the house. The four walls of the wendy house fall apart revealing a huge pie in it's dish. The pie crust moves where the children try to escape, (they are trapped inside). Their muffled protests are just about audible.

CELINE

Oh stop complaining. Ismail vite.

BEARD reappears.

CELINE

Light it.

BEARD

They're children!

CELINE snatches the matches off him and proceeds to light fire wood under the pie.

CELINE

Hopeless boy, you have no backbone.

EXT. DAY. FOREST. DUSK.

38

GREED overflies the forest. CELINE wafts the vapour of the pie upwards. The children's muffled protests are still audible.

CELINE

Shut up mes enfants.

GREED smells the pie and comes into land. He moves through the forest until he sees a restaurant frontage called "Le Menu Degustation" (The Connoisseur's menu). The door has a "closed" sign on the front. GREED peers through the glass. CELINE is now disguised as the restaurant's manager, sitting at a table with a bottle of wine. GREED smells the pie again. His stomach grumbles very loudly so he taps the glass to attract CELINE's attention.

CELINE

I am closed on Sunday monsieur. If you want pie you will have to return on Monday.

GREED

Monday now.

CELINE

Pardon.

GREED bellows and growls menacingly.

GREED

Hungry. Pie.

CELINE is not the slightest bit perturbed.

CELINE

Well if today is Monday and you are hungry then I will make an exception on this occasion.

CELINE clicks her fingers. GREED finds himself sitting at the table holding a knife and fork with a big white napkin tied round his neck. CELINE hands him a menu.

CELINE

The menu monsieur GREED.

GREED

(Roars)

Pie.

CELINE

We have pie this big, this big and special dragon sized pie which is this big.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

38

GREED

Pie.

CELINE clicks her fingers again and BEARD struggles to bring the pie, (containing the children) to GREED's table. He plonks it down then waits for a tip.

CELINE

Go away.

GREED hungrily eyes the pie and opens his jaws wide.

Some time later: GREED lays propped against a tree, his belly readily distended with pie. He is fast asleep. CELINE creeps closer.

CELINE

Was monsieur's lunch acceptable?

GREED is in a deep slumber. CELINE draws closer and in the next instant she snaps on one of the rings through his snout. GREED's eyes flick open. He can't move.

CELINE

Full of pie, and trapped by your own greed. What irony.

GREED

Let me go.

CELINE

You're not going anywhere.

GREED

I'm weak.

CELINE

These are special rings. When its like this (pulling his snout) they will drain your energy.

BEARD watches in disgust from the side.

EXT. DUSK. FOREST. TOBI BAKK.

39

Tobi Bakk is a beautiful wooded copse. TROY, VORT, ARISTOTLE, and dragons WISDOM, NAIVETY and VANITY sit around a roaring fire.

ARISTOTLE

I should have got back to the kids ages ago.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

39

TROY checks his watch.

TROY

I didn't realise time had moved on so quickly.

TROY is seated next to VANITY. They peek at each other through curiosity. TROY looks more closely at VANITY's eyes.

TROY

Are you wearing blue contact lenses?

VANITY

{Make me} Look younger.

TROY

How old are you?

VANITY picks up a small rock and shows it to TROY.

VANITY

Old as rock.

TROY

Perhaps you should try wrinkle cream.

VORT bangs his gabble.

VORT

Order, order. I Vort Igen Keeper of NECRELIAN domain bring this council to order. Who will speak first?

NAIVETY

{I have an} Idea.

VORT

What is it NAIVETY?

NAIVETY

Make friends with DURETUS.

VANITY

DURETUS not friend. You stupid.

NAIVETY

Not stupid. You ugly.

WISDOM

Stop it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

39

TROY

DURETUS's holding all the cards.

VORT

He has three amulets and The Legion of Warriors.

TROY

His plans won't raise any outside attention until its too late.

WISDOM

We need to turn the tables.

TROY

That's the hard part.

VORT

(To WISDOM) We must make the way clear for the new birth.

WISDOM

I agree. Everything else must centre around the birth.

ARISTOTLE

Where's GREED?

Everybody looks around.

VANITY

Not see him for long time.

WISDOM

He's probably gorged himself on something. He'll turn up.

TROY

That's it then.

VORT

This council has agreed. We'll tackle DURETUS after the birth of the new dragon.

INT. NIGHT. CITY. VOLDRAX BUILDING. OFFICE.

40

CELINE and BEARD report their progress to DURETUS.

DURETUS

You say you've caught the first dragon?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

40

CELINE

It was easy. I can predict we shall have the others within forty eight hours.

DURETUS

Get on with it then.

CELINE

Oui monsieur I will continue.

CELINE exits the room. BEARD stays behind. He approaches DURETUS.

BEARD

You shouldn't be doing this to them.

DURETUS

What did you say fool?

BEARD

This is their breeding ground.

DURETUS slaps BEARD across the face. The force of the blow turns BEARD's face.

BEARD

One day you might do that to somebody who will hit back.

BEARD

Get out gimp.

DURETUS composes himself. BEARD exits.

MANFRED

Our preparations are running on schedule excellency.

DURETUS

Proceed to the final phase.

EXT. DAY. FOREST.

SCENE 41

TROY is checking his map. NAIVETY is next to him - sniffing around the area and over TROY.

TROY

What exactly are you doing?

NAIVETY

Sniffing for boy and girl.

TROY

Do you mind. I don't have them.

NAIVETY

Not in your pocket?

TROY

No. I'm not hiding them in my pocket. Why don't you take off and look for them? You could search a greater area from the air that way.

NAIVETY

Umh, you are clever. I fly to city - find boy and girl.

TROY

No wait...

TROY's warning is unheeded. NAIVETY is already airborne.

TROY

...You can't show yourself in public. Oh boy!

TROY shakes his head.

CUT TO

The City.

CELINE waits on top of her lookout post. She has predicted NAIVETY's imminent arrival. NAIVETY lands close to CELINE.

CELINE

Hey Monsieur NAIVETY. Have you passed your flying proficiency test?

NAIVETY

Me fly good.

CELINE

Ah, but with a certificate of airworthiness from the Academy Aeronautic des Paris you could fly even better.

NAIVETY

You teach me to fly?

CELINE

Maybe.

NAIVETY

Please. Me good student./[Me want air miles]

CELINE

Okay. I will help you get your airworthiness certificate.

CELINE whips out a large blindfold from inside her coat.

CELINE

Viola. First, the blindfold is worn by all students.

CELINE passes the blindfold to NAIVETY.

NAIVETY now has the blindfold secured over both eyes - completely obscuring his vision.

CELINE

Attention...

CELINE stands to attention and hums "La Marseille". NAIVETY follows suit.

CELINE

Now you must complete one whole circuit of the city and land back here.

NAIVETY

Okay. I take off now.

CELINE stands to one side as NAIVETY takes a running jump and hurls himself over the buildings edge.

NAIVETY

Me fly good?

CELINE

You are flying very well. You are my best student... (mutter) you certainly qualify as the most stupid.

NAIVETY continues to fly -blindfolded and perilously close to a large office tower block.

NAIVETY

Me still fly good?

CELINE

Yes. Keep going. That's right, keep going.

CRUNCH!

The hapless dragon has flown directly into the side of the concrete building and knocked himself unconscious.

CELINE

(To ring) Looks like I won't be needing you my friend.

EXT. DAY. FOREST.

42

TROY and VORT talk. TROY'S mobile battery is going flat. He plays with it. VORT "licks" the mobile.

TROY

Its nearly dead.

VORT

I have no liking for your modern contraptions.
The chariot, this squeaking thing {mobile}.

TROY snatches the mobile back and wipes it dry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

42

TROY

Its not waterproof. You could make a life for yourself in the city.

VORT

I'll take my chances here.

ARISTOTLE approaches.

TROY

Give it a try.

VORT

(To TROY) Why don't you stay here?

ARISTOTLE

SPARTACUS and ORPHELIA have left the car.

TROY

Not again. They're real trouble aren't they?

VORT

They must have got hungry. I remember what children are like.

ARISTOTLE

What if DURETUS's captured them?

VORT

It's not beyond him.

TROY

We'd better split up.

VORT

Watch yourself.

TROY

You too.

The men split up and head in different directions.

EXT. DAY. FORREST.

43

THIS SCENE HAS BEEN REVISED

INT. DAY. VOLDRAX BUILDING. DUNGEON.

44

The captured dragons bay, whine and snort in their cells. They are all miserable at being captured.

BEARD locks the cell door on VANITY. VANITY starts whimpering.

BEARD

I'm sorry. I have to do this.

BEARD is sad.

EXT. CITY.

SCENE 45 REVISED

WISDOM and WAR are atop Leeds centre buildings. Below them unfolds the hustle-bustle of everyday modern life. WAR feels growing anger. The last time the Necrelian was here - in their *Kingdom*, it was a beautiful valley. Lush green grass and a small copse of trees stood on the horizon, bird song heralded each new day. But now everything has been overridden by the dirty stinking iron vessels men and women drive around in. The grey bile of tarmac has replaced the grass. Nothing the Necrelian knew is here now.

WAR bellows angrily at the unsuspecting city below. WAR's anger betrays his true feelings for deep down WAR knew even before the time of the Great Battle between the Sons of Eve (humans) and the dragon tribes, their days would ultimately be numbered.

WAR

[ROARS]

WISDOM

Quieten yourself!

WAR

How can you tell me to cease? Can't you see what they have done to our Kingdom?

WISDOM

Don't you think my heart isn't broken when I see this?

WAR

(Angrily) [Well] You hide your upset well. Perhaps you have resigned your fate already.

WISDOM

You speak like a fool.

WAR roars angrily at WISDOM, his jaws work and he flashes rows of large jagged teeth.

WISDOM

Don't bare your teeth to me warrior dragon.

WISDOM retorts by projecting a fireball towards WAR. Her expert aim and mastery of fire craft sees the fireball dissipate in a harmless whiff of smoke just yards in front of WAR. A potent warning.

WAR continues the argument.

WAR

The others have been captured. I want to rescue them.

WISDOM

No, {no, no}.

WAR

You've let the humans blind you to our needs. Why are we looking for their children and not protecting ourselves?

WISDOM

Reason with me. Whoever's captured the others, can hold you.

WAR

I'm trained in battle; I'd stand a better chance.

WISDOM

You'd be walking into a trap. That amulet around your neck is our last chance for survival.

WAR

Think what you like. I've got to help them.

WISDOM

Go on, do what you have to, but don't say you weren't warned.

WAR

I won't let you down.

WAR takes to the air, heading gallantly to his destiny.

INT. DAY. VOLDRAX BUILDING. DUNGEON.

46

CELINE walks through the dimly lit dungeons. She teases the captured dragons.

CELINE

Why so sad my little dragon friends?

VANITY's face appears behind the iron bars of his cramped cell.

VANITY

Why?

NAIVETY

We suffer.

CELINE

How is your indigestion monsieur Greedy dragon?

GREED's guts make the most atrocious grumbling sounds.

GREED

Bad pie.

NAIVETY

(TO CELINE) Come for freedom?

CELINE

Are you really as stupid as you look?

NAIVETY

...Yes.

VANITY

What will happen to us?

CELINE

I run a circus and you will be the main attractions.

NAIVETY claps his hands with excitement.

NAIVETY

Circus!

VANITY

{I want} Private dressing room.

GREED

Fools! She treat us bad. Treat us worse in circus.

CELINE

(To GREED) You, you are not so stupid. I hate you dragons and you will pay for what you did to my Gaston.

BEARD comes rushing in to the dungeon.

BEARD

Mademoiselle, the warrior dragon is coming this way.

CELINE

Good. Prepare my things.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD.

Scene 47 revised

IAN and KAY have parked in a quiet lay by after a drive on the country back roads. They are hopelessly lost.

KAY

I told you, you should have taken the turn to Leeds after the first roundabout.

IAN

Yeah, yeah and you're always right.

KAY

Typical man thinks he knows everything.

IAN

I'll check the map.

KAY

Yes mastermind!

IAN opens his road atlas.

Time passes.

IAN is still map reading. KAY has now dozed off.

Something heavy thuds into the ground causing the car to rock gently. KAY stirs but remains dead to the world. As the sound of WAR's clanking footfall's draws closer, IAN slowly looks up. He is griped by fear.

WAR approaches the car on the driver's side and bends down so that his huge head is on a level with the driver's window.

IAN's eyes bulge (in shock).

WAR

What are you staring at?

IAN's vocal chords fail him.

IAN
(Strangled whine)

I...

WAR
Do you know where the dragon catcher is?

IAN
...Who?

WAR
The dragon catcher! Oh it's hopeless. It's a wonder you humans lasted this long. Your ways baffle me. I should have stayed in Siberia or gone back to Nazcah. WISDOM has got a lot to answer for. Humans, pah! If I had my way I would have let Ante-Verax eat you all...

WAR stands upright again and trudges off still muttering to himself. IAN looks over to KAY. He goes to wake her, but thinks the better of it {after all how would you explain what had just happened?}. IAN looks back to the rapidly receding Warrior dragon.

EXT. DAY. FOREST.

48

TROY approaches VORT.

TROY
Still no sign of them.

VORT
ARISTOTLE think, where else would they go?

ARISTOTLE
I've looked everywhere.

TROY
Sometimes things turn up where you least expect them. We'll have to widen the search area.

VORT
WISDOM tells me the other dragons have disappeared.

TROY
Ah, I think this is becoming a bit too coincidental.

VORT
DURETUS?

TROY nods.

VORT
Why though?

TROY
Use the children as bait to lure the dragons.

ARISTOTLE

But their not flesh eaters... apart from the warrior.
Oh no.

TROY places his hand on ARISTOTLE's shoulder.

TROY
If we stay rational we can find a way round this.

ARISTOTLE
What about my children?

TROY
We'll get them back, I promise.

EXT. DAY. FOREST.

49

CELINE sunbathes in a deck chair, drinking iced tea and enjoying the winter sun. WAR approaches her. His shadow blocks the sun.

WAR
You must be the dragon catcher?

CELINE
Moi?

WAR
Where are the others?

CELINE
Somewhere you'll never find them.

WAR is enraged. He puffs his chest up and sucks in air to breath fire over CELINE. CELINE quite casually sticks two large cloth bungs into WAR's nostrils.

WAR
What!

WAR shakes the cloth bungs out.

EXT. DAY. FOREST.

50

CELINE clicks her fingers and the sky becomes dark. The picture fades to shaky, silent, Black and white World War 1 news reel style footage. WAR finds himself half submerged in a muddy trench. The sky is frequently illuminated by bomb blasts etc. Colonel CELINE of the Foreign Legion (in full combat fatigues) pops up beside WAR.

Caption card: CELINE "What are you playing at? Get your big head down and put your helmet on".

A battle helmet has appeared on WAR's head. Colonel CELINE hands a machine gun to WAR.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

50

Caption card: CELINE "This is what you trained for. Combat".

Colonel CELINE is already climbing out over the trench. WAR joins her.

Caption card: CELINE "It's down to us to lead an assault on the enemy's position".

They cross the battlefield.

They continue to advance across the battlefield. A machine gun post opens fire from the enemy's side. Colonel CELINE takes a direct hit. She stumbles then falls.

Caption card: CELINE (Dying breaths) "It was a good battle. Kiss me".

WAR leans closer. CELINE cradles him with both hands. WAR plants a kiss and pulls back. An energy draining ring is clasped through WAR's snout.

The explosions have stopped. The picture returns to colour and sound.

WAR

You betrayed me.

CELINE

A good soldier never lets his guard down. Now the amulet.

WAR feebly tries to keep CELINE away by holding up his shaking paws. WAR has all his claws.

CELINE

You have all your claws! You didn't take my bebe GASTON.

WAR

I live by honour, a code of conduct. I don't prey on children or the defenceless.

CELINE grabs the nose ring and pulls WAR down to her level.

CELINE

And where has it got you? You're worthless to me.

WAR

Then let me go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

50

CELINE

Non. The King wants your amulet and I will have your head. Come on.

CELINE tugs the nose ring.

WAR lets out one last roar which feebly tails off.

EXT. DAY. FOREST.

51

WISDOM stares into the middle distance.

TROY

What's wrong?

WISDOM

WAR. He's been captured.

TROY

Is this some kind of dragon telepathy?

WISDOM is stern.

WISDOM

Do you think this is a game? Is it fun for you? We could all be killed.

VORT

Fighting amongst ourselves won't help.

TROY

I apologise. I sometimes don't take things seriously enough.

WISDOM nods at TROY in acceptance.

TROY

I think its time we confronted DURETUS on his home ground. Who's coming?

ARISTOTLE

(Aggressive)

Yeah, I've got a few questions I want to ask him.

TROY

(To WISDOM) It might be prudent for you to stay here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

51

WISDOM

We'll continue searching for the children.

TROY and ARISTOTLE head off to the VOLDRAX building.

INT. NIGHT. DUNGEON.

52

The captured dragons sleep in their individual cells. BEARD enters the dungeon and creeps past the cells until he reaches WAR's.

BEARD

Wake up.

WAR

What do you want?

BEARD

I've come to help you.

WAR

I don't need a humans help.

BEARD

You'd rather rot in here?

WAR

You can't do anything for me.

BEARD

I may not be locked behind bars but mademoiselle CELINE has got me in prison.

WAR

Make sense gimp.

BEARD's glare could puncture steel plate.

BEARD

Don't call me that. Don't ever call me that.

WAR

You're no better than her with your demands.

BEARD

I now hate her as much as you do. She took me from an orphanage, but she treats me like a dog.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

52

BEARD (Cont'd)

When I look back. I realise I was happier there.
At least I had friends.

WAR

So what does this have to do with me?

BEARD

Not only does she want your amulet, she thinks a
dragon killed her baby son. That's why she hunts
you're kind.

WAR

So how can you help?

CUT TO

WAR has his head held over an anvil block, the shiny snout ring rests on the anvil tip. BEARD holds a large pick axe.

WAR

I hope your aim is good.

BEARD struggles to lift the mighty implement above his head.

BEARD

I used to split the iron collars on animals at
mademoiselle's circus. I never hurt an animal then
and I don't intend to start now.

The pick axe slices through the air and meets the anvil with a resounding -CLANG-.

INT. DAY. VOLDRAX BUILDING. OFFICE.

53

TROY and VORT wait outside DURETUS's office. MANFRED can be heard introducing them to DURETUS.

MANFRED

Excellency, Franklyn and his assistant are outside.

DURETUS

He's beginning to annoy me. (Huff) Show him in.

MANFRED opens the doors.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

53

ARISTOTLE

Where are my children DURETUS?

DURETUS

Who are you? Why are you accusing me of kidnapping your grotty children?

TROY restrains ARISTOTLE.

TROY

Go on, play the innocent.

DURETUS

I've had about enough of you Franklyn.

TROY

I've only just begun.

DURETUS

What else are you going to accuse me of?

TROY

Have you got a few spare hours? There's a lot of people who'd like to see you taken down a peg.

DURETUS

Don't bore me. Come back with a warrant and some hard evidence.

TROY and ARISTOTLE prepare to exit.

ARISTOTLE

I'll be back for you.

DURETUS

I can't wait.

TROY and ARISTOTLE exit the office.

TROY

He's going to try something, I can feel it.

ARISTOTLE

We'll be ready for him.

TROY and VORT walk away.

CUT TO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

53

Back inside DURETUS's office.

DURETUS
(TO CELINE) Well?

CELINE steps out from a side ante-room.

CELINE
The dragons have been incapacitated. Only WISDOM remains free and she's powerless without the others.

DURETUS
You've done a marvellous job. (To MANFRED)
Arrange a cheque for three million pounds.

CELINE
Three million!

DURETUS
A bonus my dear.

CELINE
You are very generous. Perhaps I will visit your kingdom again.

MANFRED
I hope not.

CELINE
Shut up you stupid truss cleaner.

DURETUS
Before you depart, I would like you to witness my first public duty as King.

CELINE
Very well. I stay for this, then return home.

DURETUS
Excellent. To the dungeon. Lead on MANFRED.

MANFRED leads on.

EXT. DAY. FOREST.

54

Mountain cave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 54

The new dragon egg moves under the watchful eye of WISDOM.

WISDOM

Soon.

EXT. DAY. VOLDRAX BUILDING. STREET. 55

TROY and ARISTOTLE exit the building, (to stand approximately where TROY stood while TOURIST GUIDE gave her speel).

TROY

DURETUS got rid of us too easily.

ARISTOTLE

But we don't have anything substantial on him.
Imagine taking this to the police.

TROY thinks. The location suddenly trawls something from the back of his mind.

TROY

What a minute. This place has still got its original
dungeons.

ARISTOTLE

...I know I'm thinking what you're thinking.

TROY

Lets do it.

TROY and ARISTOTLE head back inside. Inside the main foyer they discretely approach side doors and disappear behind them. They climb down dim spiral stairs towards the dungeon.

INT. DAY. VOLDRAX BUILDING. DUNGEON 56

DURETUS, MANFRED, BEARD, the EXECUTIONER and (a chained) WAR are in the dungeon.

DURETUS

Before I cement my position as ruler over this
Kingdom, I must remove all those who would
contest my throne.

TROY and ARISTOTLE reach the dungeon and hide out of sight.

Both men quickly move round to a vantage point.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

56

TROY

He's not is he?

ARISTOTLE

Shush.

DURETUS

(TO WAR) Do you deny my rightful ascension to this throne?

WAR struggles against his shackles.

WAR

With every breath in my body son of Eve.

DURETUS

Well that's too bad. It looks like we'll be having dragon soup tonight.

The sycophant courtiers laugh. BEARD silently edges away to stand next to WAR.

TROY

This doesn't look good.

ARISTOTLE

Hang back.

BEARD

I stand with the dragon.

DURETUS

A traitor!

CELINE

Let him go. He is useless. You are now longer welcome in my house.

BEARD

I've seen what you've done to the dragons. I don't want any part of your cruelty.

DURETUS

Looks like the Executioner will be paid over time. Are you ready Executioner?

EXECUTIONER pulls WAR by his chains towards the head block.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

56

EXECUTIONER

Aye.

DURETUS unveils the three amulets and holds them aloft.

DURETUS

These will give me the power. My army shall march across the land and when they are done - it shall be my kingdom.

DURETUS recites a sinister incantation. The amulets vibrate and levitate free of his hands.

DURETUS

(To WAR) The amulet if you please.

WAR

(To DURETUS) You'll have to take it off me.

DURETUS

Nothing would give me greater pleasure. (To MANFRED) Fetch it!

MANFRED moves towards WAR and pulls at the amulet which is held in place by several chains across WAR's muscular chest.

MANFRED

I hope you taste like chicken...

WAR unexpectedly pitches up and casually shrugs his (broken) chains off. The snout ring falls at MANFRED's feet. The amulet stays firmly in place.

MANFRED gulps. WAR glares at MANFRED.

WAR

...I prefer barbecue rat.

DURETUS turns around.

WAR roars, breathes in air and lets out a torrent of flames. Within moments everybody is burnt to a crisp. Miraculously BEARD remains totally unscathed.

BEARD

(To DURETUS's charred remains) I told you somebody would fight back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

56

WAR
(To BEARD) Thank you.

CUT TO

TROY
Blimey.

TROY breaks cover.

ARISTOTLE
Lead the way. I'm right behind you.

TROY and ARISTOTLE move forward. As they draw closer....

ARISTOTLE
Steady, WAR's not too keen on humans.

WAR sees TROY approach. He breathes in air, ready to disintegrate TROY.

BEARD
(To WAR) Man O' War belay that fire.

WAR
Do you know him?

BEARD
We'll hear him out.

TROY
I'm here to help. We're with WISDOM.

ARISTOTLE
I want my children.

BEARD
Your children! (Gasp/realisation) They've been eaten.

ARISTOTLE
Eaten. (To WAR) Did you eat them?

WAR glares at ARISTOTLE then to TROY.

WAR
I don't eat children. Not enough meat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

56

TROY

Don't look at me.

BEARD

No, GREED ate them.

INT. DAY. VOLDRAX BUILDING. DUNGEON.

57

The other dragons have been released. TROY stands on a step ladder with his arm down GREED's throat.

TROY

Are you sure this is going to work?

WAR

A dragons digestive system is very slow, especially when its been over eating.

GREED fidgets about.

TROY

Keep still. I've got something.

GREED burps. The smell turns TROY's head.

TROY

Boy, you stink.

BEARD

I think he's going to vomit.

TROY jumps off the ladder, the others take cover. GREED bends over, gags a few times then vomits ORPHELIA and SPARTACUS up.

SPARTACUS

We're free.

ORPHELIA

I was scared daddy.

ARISTOTLE

Oh kids.

ARISTOTLE hugs the children. TROY and BEARD attempt to wipe away the pungent vomit.

GREED

No heartburn. Food.

TROY stares GREED down.

INT. NIGHT. MOUNTAIN CAVE

58

Everybody is gathered round the mouth of the cave. VORT ceremoniously makes the first crack in the dragon egg.

VORT

The spirit between NECRELIAN and mankind is now bonded in the heavens.

They watch the dragon egg crack open and the baby albino dragon (HOPE) emerge.

WISDOM

An albino.

TROY

Is that good?

WISDOM

Its a sign of longevity.

HOPE opens it's eyes and looks directly at BEARD.

TROY

(To BEARD) Looks like you've got yourself an admirer.

WISDOM

The new born has chosen the successor to this kingdom. (To BEARD) Do you accept?

BEARD is unsure how to react. TROY and the others urge him on.

BEARD

I accept.

The people and dragons (in unison) bow and say "Long live the King", before spontaneously breaking into a round of applause.

A while later: Outside the cave.

TROY, ARISTOTLE and WISDOM enjoy the view.

TROY

You've got a great place here.

WISDOM

I hope it stays that way.

TROY

With the amulets back in safe keeping, everything can go back to normal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 58

ARISTOTLE

You're going to be alright.

ARISTOTLE walks back inside the cave.

WISDOM looks down at TROY.

WISDOM

Remember, some people keep the greatest secrets.

TROY is humbled.

EXT. DAY. FOREST. 59

TROY

Well, looks like I should be getting back.

VORT

There's room for you here.

ARISTOTLE

(To TROY) I've decided to settle in the area, book SPARTACUS and ORPHELIA into a school, you know, give them a bit of "stability".

TROY

Good for you.

ARISTOTLE

Plus I get the chance to study all I want.

TROY

I'll visit.

VORT

Will you?

TROY

Perhaps this is how it should be. Will you look after things?

BEARD

Yes. The Kingdoms in safe hands.

TROY

I'll make sure my company continues to pay the maintenance cheques for the estate. You won't get disturbed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

59

VORT

Good bye Auditor.

TROY

Goodbye Keeper.

TROY and VORT shake hands.

TROY and ARISTOTLE look at each other then hug.

TROY

Mad as a kite.

ARISTOTLE

Pen pusher.

TROY waves goodbye.

TROY

Everyone.

They all wave goodbye. TROY heads towards the forest.

ORPHELIA

Goodbye TROY.

INT. DAY. DURETUS ROLSTON & BEZZENCOTE OFFICE.

60

TROY is back in his office opposite HARRISON. He rummages through his pocket and pulls out a fragment of the fax paper ARISTOTLE gave him. He grins to himself.

High above the city streets; WISDOM, WAR, VANITY, NAIVETY and GREED fly past. HOPE clings to WISDOM's back. Within moments the dragons have disappeared among the clouds.

ALL CREDITS