

The Prince And The Spidres

by

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BLACK:

A WOMAN'S VOICE
(Weak but audible)
I love you..

A long pause. Debris crumbles, a beam of light shoots out from a ceiling down onto rubble below.

A MAN'S VOICE
(Incoherent Grumbling)

A WOMAN'S VOICE
(Slow and raspy)
..I love you, and everyone. They
count on us... They'll count on
you. Love them like I have.

Rocks crumble in the distance. Another beam of light shines through the shifting rocks.

A WOMAN'S VOICE
There's no best way of telling
them, but make sure they're safe.
No matter what.

A large hole opens in the ceiling, debris falls.

More rocks crumble in the distance, louder. A light shines down onto a pair of hands holding each other, arms buried in rubble. Men are above, looking down the hole. Echoes of their voices are heard over the woman's voice.

MAN #1
(Hey! Is that them?.. Hey! I think
we found them!)

A WOMAN'S VOICE
This is good-bye. I love you, do
your best.

MAN #2
(Get the rope! Get the rope! Get
the rope!)

From the hole in the ceiling, the camera pans to a close-up on intertwined hands is seen. A rough leathery gloved hand holds a smaller, porcelain-skinned hand.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. Edge of Smoak Forest - Early Morning - Odingard

A gloved hand comes into frame, resting upon a sword in its sheathe. A shaded figure stands where the clearing begins, revealing a large valley with a giant castle city resting upon the not-too-distant mountain. The castle glistens in the distance as rays of sunlight bounce off the wall that lines the perimeter. A family of gryphon fly from behind the

castle towards the mountains further in the back, crying out as they glide through the clouds. The man watches on.

CUT:

EXT. CASTLE WALL MAIN GATE - DAY

The camera looks down from atop the wall as the man walks through the gates of the city. A guard approaches him.

GUARD #1

Halt! You must first be identified
before entering the city. State-

The Shaded Man punches him in the face. The guard falls.

SHADED FIGURE

I'm sight seeing. And so far? Not
that Impressed...

The Shaded Figure continues to walk into the city.

SHORT DISSOLVE:

EXT. AVENUE LINED WITH CITY MARKETS

The Shaded Figure walks past various shops. A short, green, man waves at the Shaded Figure.

SMALL VENDOR

Hey! You! Yea! You there! I bet
you haven't had a good minotarte in
a while! Check out these pastries!
Bam!

SHADED FIGURE

Are you for sale?

The little green man steps back.

SMALL VENDOR

P-Pardon me?

SHADED FIGURE

Yea, how about one of your family
members? I bet with a little bit
of origina (OH-ridge-in-uh) and a
pinch of prall(pr-all), you'd be a
tasty afternoon snack. Come on,
that's what you're really selling,
right?

SMALL VENDOR

I think, uh, uh, you need to move
on. All I sell are pastries..
now...

The Shaded Figure steps back from the shop, leers at the small, green man, pausing for at least a minute, until

breaking eye contact and moving on. The small vendor anxiously watches him walk away, dabbing at a sweaty patch of his hairline.

The stranger stops in front of a large cabin-building, a sign bolted above the large door reads:

"RUBE INN"

The figure proceeds to enter.

CUT:

INT. RUBE INN - DAY

The Shaded Figure steps through the open door, light to pours into the den's interior. He begins to descend towards the bar, listening in on the various conversations in the bar.

PATRON #1

..That's when I asked him if he had seen the monster too but all he remembers is waking up in the cocoon we found him in and the purple rash on his hind quarters.

PATRON #2

You don't think the rumors of those mole people are true do you?

PATRON #3

I don't know but the academy seems to be prepping for something. Have you seen some of the things guards have been carrying around lately?

The Shaded Figure crosses the room and approaches the bar.

BARKEEP

(To the Shaded Figure)

Hey there, what can I get for you?

SHADED FIGURE

(Loudly)

Hey, I'm looking for.. Well, you see, I'm from out of town and I was wondering if you could help me with some directions.

The Shaded Figure adjusts his cloak to reveal his scabbard. The barkeep keeps his eyes on the Shaded Figure.

SHADED FIGURE

Now, you see, I'm trying to make a name for myself and by taking on the best fighters around, that'll get some attention, right?

BARKEEP

Right, well, I don't think that will help get you any attention. (Chuckles) Around here, folks like yourself usually get a slap on the wrist or a punch in the face from the guards. Up to you to decide which one you want (hehe..)

SHADED FIGURE

(The Shaded Figure moves his hand down towards his sword, maintaining eye contact with the Barkeep)

Oh, you think this is funny? Alright I'll level with you. Maybe slaughtering the local Barkeep and painting the Patrons in his blood might make some noise for the man upstairs.

Down the bar, a young man has taken notice of the exchange between the Shaded Figure and the Barkeep.

BARKEEP

(Surprised but still reserved in showing fear)

I'm still not convinced you're worth the time. I've seen men half your size get me more worried.

The Shaded Figure leans in towards the barkeep. The barkeep moves away from the figure who's encroaching upon his space,

SHADED FIGURE

What'd you say to me?

BARKEEP

Listen, you said you're new around here. Take some advice and stop looking for a fight around this city, we have enough fools who do that already.

SHADED FIGURE

Okay old man, I'm getting pretty sick of this run arou-

The shaded figure begins to draw his sword when a hand lands on his shoulder.

PROTUS

(Boasting)

Ha! I must be the one you are looking for!

A hand from behind rests on the Shaded Figure's shoulder, who is still leaning in towards the barkeep.

PROTUS

Leave the old Barkeep alone,
Stranger. Listen, I couldn't help
but overhear your conversation.

SHADED FIGURE

..Uhh..

PROTUS

You see, my name's Protus. You
might know me from the scrolls of
valor hung out on the city streets
of course. You could think of me
as both Prince and champion of
Odingard.

PATRON #2

(In the background)

Yea.. Right!

PATRON #1

(Also in the background)

..I thought I saw him on a missing
doge poster...

SHADED FIGURE

Well, I am Astron. I've come from
Outerbank to find some justice for
my people. You and your
city-dwellers discriminate our
agricultural life and take
advantage of our resources. Do you
know how many of our potatirines we
get to keep at the end of a
harvest?!

PROTUS

(Protus raises his hand
to stop Astron)

Well.. I'm sure you get to keep
some of them. What like, half?

ASTRON

None. We get to keep none. I
haven't even seen any being sold on
these streets. You dishonor my
townfolk by not even presenting our
goods for sale. I saw a shopkeeper
in the marketplace that looked
tastier, but where are the
potatirines?!

PROTUS

Listen, I don't know where or what
these potato-whatevers are called,
(MORE)

PROTUS (cont'd)
 but if you want to take on someone
 who's really got some star talent..

PATRON #3
 (In the background)
 Oh boy..

PROTUS
 ...than you better get ready
 because you're making me look bad.

PATRON #1
 (In the background)
 ..too late for that..

BARKEEP
 Hey! This is an establishment, not
 an academy field! Take it outside!

Protus and Astron lock eyes.

CUT:

EXT. RUBE INN - Day

Astron has Protus in a headlock on the ground. Astron
 pummels Protus. He stops for a moment.

ASTRON
 (Confused)
 I thought you were supposed to be
 the champ. you've got to be
 kidding, right?

Protus spits out a mouthful of blood.

PROTUS
 Yea well I'll leave you with the-

Astron puches Protus.

ASTRON
 Shut up. Come on and submit
 already, you're all washed up.

(Flushing whirlpool noise).

CUT:

INT. RUBE INN - DAY

A tall armor clad man exits the Inn's latrines. He looks to
 the bar. The barkeep takes notice and waves him over.

BARKEEP

Oh! Brellin! Get outside, that royal pain of yours is way over his head!

CUT:

EXT. RUBE INN - DAY

Brellin exits the inn, looks around the front and sides of the Inn and finds Astron atop Protus back behind the establishment.

BRELLIN

Hey!

Astron doesn't notice and gives Protus another whack.

PROTUS

Oww!

ASTRON

Submit.

PROTUS

..No!

Brellin walks over and grabs Astron, throwing him off of Protus and halfway across the alley.

BRELLIN

I said.. "Hey."

Astron, winded, reorients himself, eyes wide open.

ASTRON

How did you do that?!

BRELLIN

Well.. I grabbed that big, dumb cloak of yours and then I picked you up and tossed ya in to that trash over yonder. Protus, you good?

Brellin turns to Protus.

PROTUS

Yea.. I'll be fine, just a-

ASTRON

(yelling)

HEY-

Brellin spins toward Astron, taking a punch to the gut, unphased. Astron glances at Brellin just before receiving a swift, hammer-like punch to the face. Astron staggers back, holding his face, then falls to his knees screaming.

ASTRON
 (yelling)
 G-Ahhhhhh!!

BRELLIN
 I was talking. To my COMPATRIOT.
 Hmpf.

ASTRON
 How did you do that?! I took out a
 gate guard with ONE PUNCH.

BRELLIN
 Hmm? ..Psh, H-team..

Astron stares up at Brellin for a second with a face of pure disbelief, his eye winces. He rises to his feet. Blood drips off his chin.

BRELLIN
 How about you scam before you get
 more than just a slap on the
 wrist..

ASTRON
 ..But.. My people.. Our
 livelihood.. The potatirines..!

BRELLIN
 Potatirines? Protus?

PROTUS
 (Coughing up a lung)
 ..We stole them?

ASTRON
 Yes.

BRELLIN
 No..

PROTUS
 No?

ASTRON
 No?

BRELLIN
 No. We switched over to a new food
 source for the casmules a while
 ago..

ASTRON
 Wuh..Food source..? For Casmules?

Brellin walks over to and lifts Protus to his feet, propping him up against the exterior of the Inn. Brellin turns to Astron.

BRELLIN

Last time I'll say this, you're asking the wrong questions in the wrong place. Get out of town.

Astron gathers himself, looks to Brellin, then shifts his gaze to Protus.

ASTRON

Pfft, champion..

Astron starts to walk away from Brellin and Protus. He looks back only once to check that he's not being followed.

BRELLIN

(Much angrier)

And you. Don't think you're going to be getting out of this one as easily as last time.

PROTUS

(Spits out a tooth and some blood)

Yea. Yea... Uhm.. You know.? I'm not feeling.. all too..well..

Protus suddenly faints, Brellin just nearly catches him.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. ROYAL BEDROOM #1 - MIDDAY

Protus is lying in his bed, bandaged after his scuffle with Astron. There is a large bandage wrapped around his head, his right eye is severely bruised. A pill and cup of water rest on his table. Brellin enters.

BRELLIN

Good morning, Princess. How ya feeling?

Brellin sets down a glass of water and a bowl of fruit next to Protus's bed.

PROTUS

(Holding his head)

Uhgggg..

BRELLIN

Yea.. That's kind of what I thought you'd say. Your arm and head took quite the beating but the doctor says that with a little bed rest, you should be alright.

PROTUS

Yea..

Protus looks at his bandaged arm, there's a lull in the conversation.

BRELLIN

Listen, let's talk about what happened...How do you feel about what you did?

PROTUS

..Dumb...

BRELLIN

And what aren't we going to do again?

PROTUS

..Get into a fight...

Brellin flicks Protus's head bandage.

PROTUS

AH! THAT HURT, BRELLIN.

BRELLIN

Damn right! That better hurt! You really think after an act like that, I'd coddle you? What were you thinking out there?

PROTUS

I was just doing my duty! That son of a squatch was challenging the integrity of my Kingdom! He-

BRELLIN

Stop. First off, this isn't your kingdom, it's the people's kingdom. Second, that idiot was no challenge to the kingdom. Your father's still in the High Halls, the birds still tweet, and life goes on. You were just looking for a reason to act out..

PROTUS

That's one way of looking at it, but what about thinking of it as a precautionary act? I mean just think about it..

BRELLIN

I would, but this is the third time you've acted "precautiously," Protus.. Come on, you're scaing people.

PROTUS

Well, I think the king just needs to know what I'm bringing to the kingdom.

BRELLIN

What? Numerous disorderly conduct complaints? People count on your father, he really can't be dealing with all the trouble you're causing.

PROTUS

Yea, well, not everyone gets to be the star child in the family- my brother got his for being the valiant heir, and then you have me, number two.

Brellin crosses towards the door and grabs the handle.

BRELLIN

I think you need to think about that and decide if that's true. You don't have to be the other half. You're old enough for me to tell you this: Grow up, Protus.

Brellin exits. Protus ponders the conversation. Protus gets out of bed, wincing at the pain of his bandaged arm. He looks around the room. The curtains flow as a breeze comes through the window.

CUT:

EXT. CASTLE REAR - MIDDAY

Protus falls into a bush from the window far above. He rolls out, brushing himself off. He walks out the back of the castle garden towards the valley below.

PROTUS

If the people really think I'm a nuisance, then forget 'em. This whole royalty thing is more of a burden than a gift.

DISSOLVE:

EXT. FALLON VALLEY - MIDDAY

Protus is wandering down a dirt road. Birds and other animals are off in the woods walking, singing, and living in their natural environemt. A baby chipmunk falls out of a tree but a parent catches it just in time.

PROTUS

Glad to see someone takes care of their own.

Up ahead, a barewolf comes running out of some trees towards Protus.

PROTUS

Ahh crap!

Protus tries to run but his knee buckles from his injuries.

PROTUS

Oh.. For the love of-

The barewolf runs past Protus. More animals begin to flee the woods.

PROTUS

What the hel is going on?

Protus stands amidst a stampede of animals passing by him. All sorts of animals flock towards where the Valley begins to transition to castle grounds. Protus walks in the opposite direction.

DISSOVLE:

EXT. DIRT ROAD - MIDDAY

Protus comes around a bend in the road when he spots a group of men standing around a woman sitting on the ground.

GUARD A

(In the distance)

Ha Ha! Look at her! We rarely find anything this good on our valley rounds.

GUARD B

Yea no kidding, look at that hair!

GUARD C

(Slightly salivating)

And those eyes..

GUARD A

(Turning towards the woman)

..And that mouth..

The men all let out a chuckle. Protus shifts his gaze from the men to the woman on the ground. He can't see what she looks like but her clothes seem tattered and dirty. He hesitates for a second before stepping forward.

PROTUS

H-hey! Uh.. Hello!

The guards stop mid-chuckled to look over at Protus.

GUARD A

Halt! Who are you?

PROTUS

I am the second clap of thunder,
champion of the realm, hero of
humanity. I'm your prince, Protus!

GUARD C

(To Guard B, under his
breath)

Have you ever heard of Prince
Protus?

GUARD B

(Under his breath)

Nah.. I thought Zerros was the
prince? ..Look at him, Boss.
Forget this kid.

GUARD A

(Turning from Guard B)

Ahh! Yes.. Of course! Prince
Protus! What can we do for you?

PROTUS

I need to ask, what are you doing
to that woman there. Why is she on
the ground? Uh.. Ma'am? Are you-

GUARD A

Hey! Prince.. Listen, this woman
here is a criminal and-

WOMAN

No!

Guards B and C stand in front of the woman,

GUARD A

AND. And.. She.. Uh, isn't from
around here so.. She doesn't speak
Commonly! Yea..

PROTUS

Right.. Well, let me just check
with her..? 'Scuusee me.

Guard A steps in his way.

GUARD A

Listen, Prince, I think she could
be dangerous, it's really not safe
for you here. How about you just
turn around back towards Odingard
and-

PROTUS

What's her name?

GUARD A

What?

Protus looks around the guard and leans in towards the woman.

PROTUS
What's your name?

WOMAN
Amorelai!

PROTUS
..Wait, what?

GUARD B
(Whispering)
Come on, Boss, let's just waste
this kid, he's catching on.

PROTUS
I thought you said she didn't speak
the Commons.

GUARD A
Alright, kid. Well, uh..

The guard pushes Protus to the ground and kneels on his wounded arm.

GUARD A
Listen, clearly you're no prince,
and so, clearly, we're not going to
give you the premo treatment.

GUARD C
Yea!

GUARD A
So.. We're going to take care of
you, then, we're going to (chuckle)
take care of the girl over there.
And then! We're going to go on our
marry way and no one will even
care.

PROTUS
Hnrghh.. Get.. Off..!

Protus struggles to get the guard off with only one arm but his weight is too much.

PROTUS
I am your prince. And I WILL NOT
LET YOU HARM ANYONE.

The other guards crowd around Protus and give him a kick in the side. And another. And another. And a cracking sound.

PROTUS
ARGHHHH!

Amorelai shivers in fear of what's happening. Protus is continually beaten. The guards's boots, gloves, and bracers are covered in blood.

PROTUS
(Quietly)
Please, no more..

GUARD B
What was that? I can't hear you,
"Prince"! Ha ha...

With every blow, Protus's body writhes in pain. Over and over and over. Until, he stops. Amorelai sees this and stands up slowly, removing something from her robes.

GUARD A
Alright boys, I think we've done
enough. Let's throw him over to
one of those barewulves we saw
earlier.

GUARD C
Ha ha, yea, Boss!

While the guards's backs are turned, Amorelai sneaks up behind Guards B and C and kicks in their knees, falling them. She pushes both as they buckle and jumps on top of Guard A, shoving a short, purple blade into his neck.

GUARD C
Lovin' Lucien!

Guard A falls to his knees, screaming as he grabs at his wound. The other guards draw their swords.

GUARD B
You are really, really, REALLY,
going to regret that, girly..

AMORELAI
I AM NO GIRL!

Suddenly, Guard A goes quiet.

GUARD B
..Boss?

GUARD A
(Empty wheezing)
.....

Guard A looks at the blood on his hands and his eyes widen when he sees it's not the maroon he had hoped for, but a dark purplish-black.

GUARD C
For Luce!

Guard A's eyes roll back in his head and he collapses. Dark fluid starts to leak from his ears.

GUARD B

What the Hel is that?!

Slowly creeping outwards from Guard A's wound, the veins in his neck turn dark and the skin around the wound turns black, shriveling back as if drying out.

GUARD B

Oh, forget this, I'm out!

GUARD C

Ahhhh!

The guards sheathe their weapons and run for their lives. Amorelai turns to Protus.

AMORELAI

Don't move.

Amorelai rests her hands on Protus's chest, suddenly creating a dark aura around her hands. It enters Protus and his wounds begin to heal.

AMORELAI

Wake up, damnit. Wake. UP.

Protus lies there, still silent and unmoving.

AMORELAI

Come on. Come on! COME ON!

Protus's eyes open.

PROTUS

(Whisper)

..Mother.

Protus sits up quickly and frantically looks around.

PROTUS

(Fast)

What... What.. Wha.. Wha...

AMORELAI

Hey! Hey, hey.. Relax.. Are you...
Oka-

Protus' head spins around and locks eyes with Amorelai.

PROTUS

That was.. So cool!

AMORELAI

Oh! Uhh, It's just a...

PROTUS

..Power..

AMORELAI

Uhh.. Yea.. I guess you could call it that.

PROTUS

(breathless)

No, no. I mean.. What you did. It was.. Powerful.. And.. Amazing?

AMORELAI

...You're not scared that I just.. Killed that man?

PROTUS

Better him than me, am I right?

Amorelai nods back, scrunching her face to the remark.

PROTUS

I mean.. I'm just glad that I am alive. And.. Saved by such a brave Sol at that! Ha ha..

AMORELAI

Uhh, right. Well, if you hadn't stepped in, I might have wound up somewhere similar.. (Whispering)

PROTUS

Uh, question.. Did I just.. Die?

AMORELAI

Well... You're here now, aren't you?

PROTUS

Yea.. I guess so.. Uhm, pardon me, but your name was...

AMORELAI

Amorelai.

PROTUS

Amorelai. Cool. As you may have heard...

Protus starts to sit up.

PROTUS

...I'm Protus.

Protus brushes the dirt off himself. As he pats down on the cuts in his clothes, he's surprised that his previous arm and head injuries have been healed.

PROTUS

Not to say I get healed often, but, you healed me pretty well. You have a real handle on that.

AMORELAI

Well.. To be honest, it took years of hardwork. Lots of practice I'd say... I'm sure you get what I mean though.

PROTUS

Huh?

Amorelai motions up towards the city resting on the mountain behind them.

AMORELAI

I can imagine being a prince is pretty tough.

PROTUS

Yes.. Well, it has its moments.. Oh, was there somewhere you were going before..uhm, well, them?

AMORELAI

Yes! Actually.. I was on my way home.. Quite the distance now that I think about it. But, I think I should probably get moving so not to scare my father.

PROTUS

Oh..! Could you.. Use some company? Those other men are still out there..

AMORELAI

I think I scared them enough that I'll be fine..

PROTUS

Uh-

AMORELAI

...But (small smirk), having the company along would be nice.

PROTUS

(Blundering)

Yes! Of course! Let us continue! To your father's!

AMORELAI

Your name was.. Protus?

PROTUS

Yes?

AMORELAI

You're quite the odd one. You know that, right?

PROTUS

Someone has to be. But I pride myself on it.

DISSOLVE:

EXT. KIEF BRIDGE - AFTERNOON

Amorelai and Protus have spent some time walking. They've come to a small bridge that sits above an even smaller stream. Byrds and Carriun squack, screech, and squanch in the distance. The sun has begun to set and an orange sky is starting to set in.

PROTUS

...And after my brother was sent off, our band broke up. Just when we needed each other the most... I couldn't even tell you when I last truly spoke with my father..

AMORELAI

...My father never really listens to me either. I try to tell him what I think is right for us going forward and he always seems to be so closed off. I show him over and over that I am skilled and can be of use to him but he never seems to want to involve me in anything he does at home..

PROTUS

Amorelai, to be honest, I'm not all that great a prince so I'm glad to hear that the over achiever is also struggling hehe...

AMORELAI

Haha, well, everyone has their own battles.

PROTUS

That's true.. Oh!

Protus and Amorelai come upon a cave that has a faint light shining through from the other end.

AMORELAI

Well, I think here is where we must depart. This is a rather.. Developed, cave that has various detours that lead to dead ends.

PROTUS

Woah, that's... Interesting? Have you traveled through this place a lot?

AMORELAI

Yes, it's quite the through-way for the people back home. It used to have military use but an accident a some years ago left it dangerous in some parts.. Luckily there's still paths that are safe to travel, you just don't want to get lost.

PROTUS

What happened to make it dangerous?

AMORELAI

Not completely sure, it was before our time, easily 30 years ago, but, they say there are monsters down there.

PROTUS

OoOoOoOo.. Monsters..

AMORELAI

I'm not kidding! These aren't your usual run of the mill cabats down there. I've heard the elderly in my town say that there is a real evilness down there.. That when people go down to far, they don't make it back.

PROTUS

Oh.. That's.. Metal.

AMORELAI

Yea.. So, a lot of good people from my town have been lost to it down there. It makes things hard at home.

PROTUS

So why do you still use it despite the risk?

AMORELAI

Because we need to.. Way of life sort of case.

PROTUS

Oh.. Good thing you're as brave as you are then! This cave will be nothing.

AMORELAI

Yep!

PROTUS

Alright, this is it but, I'm glad we got to meet, I feel like I learned a lot for going forward. Good luck with your father, I wish I had better advice but I guess try, try again is all I can recommend.

AMORELAI

Thank you, and yes, I agree, I'm glad we met, Protus. Good luck on your endeavours and hopefully you can pull the city's sentiment around. Just, work hard.

PROTUS

Haha, you got it.

Protus, goes to shake Amorelai's hand but she brushes it away and embraces him with a hug.

AMORELAI

Hand shakes are for business, hugs are for friends.

PROTUS

Uh-..oh!

Protus returns the hug with a big smile.

PROTUS

Yes.. Friend! Hopefully someday we can meet again.

AMORELAI

I look forward to it..

Amorelai turns from protus towards the entrance of the cave and begins to step into the darkness. She turns back and meets eyes with Protus briefly.

AMORELAI

Almost forgot, thanks again for saving my life!

Amorelai turns away again and proceeds.

PROTUS

...And thank you for changing mine.

DISSOLVE:

EXT. EDGE OF SMOAK FOREST - EVENING

The castle gate is lit from one end to the other, red atop the mountain. Protus comes to the clearing and looks at the site.

PROTUS
Oh for the love of Lucien..

DISSOLVE:

EXT. CASTLE WALL MAIN GATE - EVENING

Protus approaches the gate. A guard from atop the gate yells to him.

GUARD #2
HALT! WHO GOES THERE!

PROTUS
H-Team member! It's Protus, open the gate!

The guard squints at Protus, pulls back, looks to the guard next to him, and signals to have the lights dimmed.

GUARD #2
PROCEED!

The large wooden gates of the wall begin to creak open slowly. Protus looks through the split in the doors where light starts to spill out from. On the other side, Brellin and a group of guards are waiting.

PROTUS
(V.O.)
Yikes, all this for me? Oh boy this is going to be bad..

BRELLIN
Protus! Where have you been?!

PROTUS
I'm sorry, Brellin.. I had-

BRELLIN
YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO ANYONE.
The entire city has been on alert.

PROTUS
Brellin.. I'm sorry! I'll do whatever I can to help!

BRELLIN
DAMN RIGHT YOU WILL. You know how resource heavy alert periods are!

PROTUS
I'll do whatever needs to be done.
Any work that's been pushed back I'll gladly take up. Also, I'm going back to the Academy.

Brellin grabs Protus by the arm and stares him right in the face.

BRELLIN

You will not do anything like that again.

Brellin positions Protus so that he can be passed off to another guard.

BRELLIN

Release the alarm. The prince is back to us safely. Make sure he finds his way to his chambers and stays there. He has an early day tomorrow.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. PROTUS'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Brellin slams in the door.

BRELLIN

Good Morning, Protus!

PROTUS

(waking up)

Gyaahh!

BRELLIN

You know what today is!

PROTUS

Academy day..

BRELLIN

ACADEMY DAY! That's right my boy! You've got quite the path ahead of you! So, no time to waste, get your things ready, lessons start in an hour!

PROTUS

(Groan...)

Okay, I'll start..

Protus removes his blanket and gets out of bed.

DISSOLVE:

INT. ROYAL BATHROOM

Protus is brushing his teeth. Brellin sticks his head in to the bathroom.

BRELLIN

Hustle! Protus!

PROTUS
(Garbled)
..I know!

Protus spits.

CUT:

INT. ROYAL LOBBY

Protus is tying up the straps on his boots. Brellin pops in the background.

BRELLIN
Lessons in half an hour! Get moving!

PROTUS
(Gazing upward)
I know..!

CUT:

EXT. ROYAL ESTATE - MORNING

Protus leaves through the side door of the house. As he steps descends the garden stairs, Brellin is waiting at the front gate.

BRELLIN
Learn a lot today. Make sure to take detailed notes. And don't forget combat training after you get back.

PROTUS
Damn, Brellin, I know jeez..

BRELLIN
Just making sure. Don't do anything stupid.

PROTUS
(Sighs)
Okay..

Protus walks through the gate.

DISSOLVE:

INT. ACADEMY CLASSROOM - MORNING

Protus enters the academy room and sits in a seat while the teacher instructs the class. He takes notes until paperwork is handed out. He chats with some of the students sitting next to him.

DISSOLVE:

INT. ROYAL COMBAT ROOM - AFTERNOON

Protus drops his napsack as he walks in the room and picks up a set of staves. A man in traditional fighting garb steps out from behind the bondsay tree in the dojo and faces Protus. Protus throws him a staff. They stare at each other for a moment before breaking out into stances and lunging at each other.

CUT:

EXT. CITY STREET TOWARDS ROYAL ESTATE - EARLY EVENING

Protus is walking down an evening lit street. He has a dark mark around his eye and the side of his face is a little swollen. He starts to ascend a staircase which leads towards the Royal Estate. Protus makes it up a few steps before noticing an elderly woman struggling to carry a basket up the flight. He approaches her.

PROTUS

Hello, Ma'am, can I help you with that?

The elderly woman at first looks anxious but looks up to him and smiles. Through his swollen expression, she sees he is smiling too. Protus carries the basket up the staircase while taking the woman's arm as they take slow steps up the long flight.

FADE TO BLACK:

CUT:

INT. PROTUS'S BEDROOM - WINTER

Brellin comes crashing into the room.

BRELLIN

DO YOU KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS PROTUS?

Protus springs up from his slumber.

PROTUS

...You need to stop doing that, Brellin.. And yes, I know what day it is.

Brellin walks over to Protus wardrobe and janks open the doors, revealing a new set of armor, sporting a buffed badge of his family's crest. Protus steps out of bed and walks towards Brellin.

PROTUS

Yea, I know. I actually can't wait for the-

A shockwave goes off in the distance. Brellin and Protus stumble to gain their balance.

PROTUS

What was that?

BRELLIN

It fealt like an earthquake, but,
that was too quick..

Another shockwave passes by. Protus and Brellin fall to their knees.

BRELLIN

Your Initian Exam will have to wait. You know what to do.

Brellin runs out of the room and Protus stands and hurries to the wardrobe. He straps up his boots, slides on his gloves, adjusts his bracers and places the new brestplate upon himself, sliding his head through the neck hole slowly so not to scuff the glossy finish. He grabs the scabbard from the back of the closet and sets it in place on his side.

CUT:

EXT. KINGDOM STREET - MORNING

Snow falls across the roofs of the street buildings. A bloody cry can be heard in the distance. Protus is running through the streets looking for the source of the shockwaves and screaming. He looks between every alley and street, glancing so quickly that it is as if he is moving in slow motion as he analyzes every detail.

EXT. LOCAL BAZAAR

Protus finally comes to a clearing in the buildings to find that a giant, hulking, monster has smashed it's way through the main gate and has sprinted its way to the inner bazaar. It lets out a blood-curtling scream. Citizens run from the monster as the guards circle around it. Brellin is within the brigade.

BRELLIN

Wait for a clearing and then we engage! Just make sure it doesn't break out of our perimeter!

The monster swipes at the guards but they stay tight and unified. Protus comes running up to join the fray.

PROTUS

Brellin! What is that thing?

BRELLIN

Albino Bangagork! Highly erratic,
stay back!

Protus looks at the monster as it begins to step towards some more of the guards. It knocks away their spears and

swords and proceeds to grab a few. It tears one guard in half, while stomping down on two others.

PROTUS

Yea.. Nope!

Protus runs in and slices at the monsters feet, causing it to fall and land on its back. The guards who were under the monsters wait are pulled out by other guards. Protus steps back from the monster to regroup with the guard.

BRELLIN

That was reckless...

PROTUS

Had to be done. How do we kill it?

BRELLIN

A lot of swishing and stabbing..

PROTUS

Weak spots?

BRELLIN

You found two already. I would say under the head is our best bet but.. Getting there will be difficult.

The monster regains its balance, locks eyes with Protus, and sprints towards him at full speed.

GUARD #3

INCOMING!

Protus and Brellin jump out of the way at the right time and the monster slams into a building side, creating a hole and getting its head stuck.

BRELLIN

Charge! Now!

The guards surround the monster and begin to attack it. It jerks its legs in retaliation, kicking one man into the buiding far across the bazaar. The monster finally pops its head out.

BRELLIN

Retreat!

The monster stumbles and falls to its knees. It locks eyes with Protus, who's far distant from the guards, and makes one last charge at him.

BRELLIN

Protus! Move!

Protus hesitates briefly. The monster is upon him. It stumbles and falls. He draws his sword just in time to take

advantage of the moment.

PROTUS
ARGHHHHHHHHH!

The monster loses traction in the slush and falls upon Protus's sword, just under the head. It's large mass pins Protus to the ground.

PROTUS
Luce, Luce, Luce, Luce, Luce!

Protus calms. Brellin and the remaining guards walk over to him.

PROTUS
Get. This. Thing. Off of me.

BRELLIN
You heard him..

The guards lift the monster off of Protus and Brellin extends a hand out to him. Protus takes his hand and stands up.

PROTUS
Brellin.. I'm sorry I-

BRELLIN
You did good, kid.

PROTUS
But-

BRELLIN
Leave it, you found victory today.

Protus stands next to Brellin for a moment, pondering the situation. He looks to the guards who did not make it. Protus sighs. He looks to Brellin and the guards who survived. They know it too.

PROTUS
(V.O.)
So this is what it's all about..
The responsibility to my people..

Protus looks at his sword and his armor. They're stained with the blood of the monster.

PROTUS
(V.O.)
Responsibility...

Suddenly, the floor of the bazaar starts to cave in like a sandpit. The disguard weapons start to slide in to the hole. The monster soon too falls in. Guards carrying the corpses of their fallen comrades soon almost get sucked up. One falls in but the other drops the body to escape.

BRELLIN

What the Hel..?

GUARD #3

Sir, what is that?

BRELLIN

...I have no idea.

From behind the guards, more holes begin to pop up. More and more pop up that they begin dotting the streets every few blocks. Some of the guards step toward the bazaar hole and look in.

GUARD #4

AHHHHH!

GUARD #5

GHAAAA!

A hand pops out from the sandy part of the hole and yanks the men downward. A spidery monster pops out and two of its spidery arms pierce the guard's armor.

PROTUS

Oh! No!!

The men drop to the floor holding their wounds.

GUARDS #4&5

(Screaming)

The monster pulls itself out of the hole. The guards scream until they go silent, and their eyes role back.

BRELLIN

Zirrin? Arthemule? Are you..

PROTUS

Wait..

Protus looks around and sees that more of these spider-people are climbing out of the holes and are engaging the guards. Up the main street from the bazaar, Protus notices that there's a strong distribution of them that lead to the castle.

PROTUS

Brellin! I think the castle is in trouble. I need to head back.

BRELLIN

No. You need to secure yourself in your room. It's safe there, just wait for me.

PROTUS

I gotta go. Good luck!

Protus runs off.

BRELLIN

Protus!

CUT:

EXT. AVENUE LINED WITH CITY MARKETS - MIDDAY

Brellin runs past several shops and houses. Citizens are still in the streets, hustling to escape as more spider-people climb out of their holes.

PROTUS

KEEP MOVING! GET IN YOUR HOMES!
THE GUARDS ARE ON THEIR WAY!

Up ahead, Protus sees a little green man pinned against a wall, about to be attacked by a spidre. Protus draws his sword and begins to approach when, out of nowhere, Astron lunges in and shoves his blade down the center of the spidre.

ASTRON

Little, tasty, green-man, are you okay?

SMALL VENDOR

Y-y-yes-s, b-but there's more behind you!

Protus jumps in and slices up a few of the spidre pincers that were swinging towards Astron and the Small Vendor.

ASTRON

Thank..You? Hey, wait, I know you..

Protus turns towards Astron.

PROTUS

Yea, I'm the champion of Odingaurd, remember?

A group of spidres approach them.

PROTUS

Listen, we're about to get busy so let's talk about this another time over a bowl of some Kim noodles?

Protus and Astron engage the spidres, taking down many with their teamwork.

ASTRON

I'll take you up on that,Prince.

More spidres come.

ASTRON

You, go! I can cover this here!
We're going to retreat soon anyway.
Go!

Protus and Astron lock eyes and nod at each other before Protus sprints off again.

CUT:

INT. ROYAL ESTATE - AFTERNOON

A large hole is open in the middle of the estate's foyer, guards have been fighting the spiders since they first started popping up. They're tired from prolonged battle. They wait.

GUARD #6

Alright people, they can come up at anytime. Stay aware!

Atop the estate's staircase, stands a man in detailed armor. He stares down at the hole in the center of the room ominously. There is a slamming at the front door, the guards brace themselves.

PROTUS

(Muffled)

Open the door! It's Protus.

The men look up the staircase to the man. He nods. Guard #7 opens the door and Protus comes running in. He frantically looks around. The guards stare at him.

PROTUS

There're.. So many of them here!

GUARD #6

Not anymore. And any that think to come out of that hole, will get a sword through the chest.

GUARD #7

You shouldn't be-

Suddenly, sounds start to come from the hole. Rumbling from below the estate gets louder. The guards surround the hole. A large pincer claw comes flying out of the hole, much larger than any that had come out before.

GUARD #6

Be ready!

A large, beetle-like monster climbs out of the hole. And then another. The guards step back at the cart-sized beasts. An audible "gulp" is heard.

PROTUS

Woah..

GUARD #6
Troops, split it up! A and C on
the left, B and D on the right!
Go!

The guards split up and begin to fight the beetles. The beetles's size makes it slow. Guards are able to maneuver under and over the beetles's movements, taking swings at them with their swords when the opportunity is right.

GUARD #7
What!?

Guard #7's sword bounces off the beetle, leaving only a scuff mark on its shell.

GUARD #7
Swords don't work, Captain!

GUARD #6
They have to! Switch up the plan,
troops! Switch enemies!

The guards look to each other and make a break for it. The beetles charge after by end up knocking into each other, rolling over onto their backs after the clash.

GUARD #6
Now! Get their undersides!

The guards approach and, while some are knocked away by giant horns, are able to score critical hits on the beetles. They let out a cry until they start to go quiet.

PROTUS
Wow..

The guards take a breath. Protus looks in awe at the guards standing over the behemoths they've vanquished.

GUARD #6
Hopefull that is it..

The sound of a rock tumbling comes from the hole.

GUARD #6
Ugh.. Of course..

Long, pointed, horns start to emerge from the pit. A large, upright, spider-like fugire climbs out of the hole garbed in rags. It points to the man at the stairs.

FIGURE
I.. Am Scarabak. And you, have
penance to pay.

The man at the top of the stairs steps down.

MAN

What say you? What brings you to our home..?

SCARABAK

You find this a casual matter, overling?

MAN

No, I find this intriguing. I am Soladon, King of Odingard, and I represent the people that you are murdering.

SCARABAK

Good... But this is not.. MURDER.. We have been kept underground for too long. We've been poisoned by your overworld mettling and now we need it to stop.

SOLADON

You imply a certain, genocidal tone, Scarabak.. Must we settle this with steel and blood?

SCARABAK

We must. For far too long, our offspring have suffered because of your pollution and ambitions. Our home, tainted.

The guards and Protus look on as Soladon approaches Scarabak

PROTUS

..Father...

Soladon motions Protus not to approach. The guards grab ahold of Protus.

SOLADON

Scarabak, if what you seek is the liberation of your people through the elimination of my people, then what you have found is power and defeat. Both mine.

SCARABAK

You disgrace the Aracites!

Scarabak lunges at Soladon with massive speed. Soladon is able to draw his sword and dodge Scarabak's assault. Scarabak makes a return and charges at Soladon, using his pincers and claws to stab at Soladon.

PROTUS

Father! Let me help you!

SOLADON

Stay where you are!

Protus looks away in shame. He notices as he looks off, movement shifting in the hole in the ground. A small, delicate hands comes out from it.

PROTUS

..What.. Is that?

The guards too shift their gaze and release Protus when they see a small figure start to climb out from the hole.

PROTUS

...Amorelai?

Amorelai fully emerges from the hole. Now, instead of wearing rags, she is decorated in spiky armor with a small crown-ornament resting on her head. She looks taller, and more mature than last time.

PROTUS

AMORELAI WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

Amorelai looks over and locks eyes with Protus for a second, then turns away to watch the fight between Soladon and Scarabak.

AMORELAI

I am here for my people... And I see you are too.

Crashing can be heard from outside the estate. Aracites are banging up against the side of the structure. The guards prepare themselves for combat.

GUARD #6

HERE THEY COME!

The aracites break through and begin to fight with the guards. The fight between Soladon and Scarabak moves them all around the foyer, destroying antiques, pillars, drapes, and all sorts of furniture in the crossfire. Protus tries to make his way towards Amorelai.

PROTUS

What do you mean!

Scarabak and Soladon make their way towards the center of the room, the centralized point of all the fighting. Aracites and guards alike are entering and falling during the fight. Bloodshed is high. Protus makes his way to Amorelai.

PROTUS

...What are you doing here?

AMORELAI

I told you.

Scarabak and Soladon's movements are slow from such intense fighting. Soladon is tired at his age and Scarabak can't maintain too much more energy. They begin to slug it out in the center of the room. Protus looks from Amorelai to the fight.

PROTUS

..No...

Protus looks back and forth several times at the fighting and Amorelai, assembling the pieces in his head.

PROTUS

Wait, do you mean then...

Soladon kicks in one of Scarabak's legs, felling him. Soladon runs to grab his sword from a few feet away but Scarabak catches his leg and starts to pull him in. Soladon kicks him in the face with his cleated boots, loosening the grip. Soladon scrambles for, and acquires, his sword. Protus's gaze shifts towards the fight. Soladon standing above Scarabak.

SOLADON

(whispering)

You'd have done the same for your people.

SCARABAK

I would.

PROTUS

NO!

Soladon shoves the blade down into Scarabak's chest, making a loud squish noise as he removes it. Scarabak falls. The Aracites take notice and begin to move back. The guards take advantage of the moment and use it to drive back their enemies. Protus looks to Amorelai.

PROTUS

Amorelai...

AMORELAI

.....

For just a moment, there's a silence in the room. Protus reaches out to Amorelai.

AMORELAI

STAY AWAY FROM MEEEEEEEEEEEEEE.....!

Suddenly, pincer-like extremities shoot out of Amorelai's back, piercing Protus through his armor's crest and sending him flying towards the adjacent wall.

SOLADON

Protus! She's the objective!

Amorelai's attire has completely altered. She's grown larger, and her wardrobe more spiny. Spider-like legs protrude from her back and the crown-like ornament has completely enveloped her head. She looks at the guards and then shifts to Soladon.

AMORELAI

You will pay for that. Our people
will not be oppressed.

The guards run to her and try to attack her but she is far too nimble for their attacks. She bobs and weaves through their barrage of attacks, making her way towards Soladon. She jumps over a few of the guards in her way and tries lashing out at Soladon, trying to stab him with one of her pincers like she did Protus. He deflects her attack and she lands in front of the estate doors. She looks at the room of guards that outnumber her. She looks to Protus.

AMORELAI

RRRRRRRAAAHHHH!

Amorelai jumps through one of the nearby windows. Guards run after her. Soladon runs to his son.

SOLADON

Protus.. I'm sorry, Protus, wake
up. Wake up. You need. To wake
up.

Protus does not wake up. Soladon pulls off Protus's armor to inspect his wound. It's bloody and dark, but the skin in the area seems to be healing over at a miraculous rate.

SOLADON

What..? I need a medic over here!

The guards in the area avert their attention from Amorelai and her Aracites and rush back in to tend to Soladon and Protus.

SOLADON

I'm fine! I'm fine! Get him! Take
him! Save him!

The guards lift Protus's body and carry him off towards the royal medical bay. Soladon stands in the center of the room alone, looking out the window as a wave of Aracites flee the kingdom.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. WARROOM - SPRING

Brellin walks into the room and approaches Soladon.

BRELLIN
Six months and no trace.

SOLADON
And Protus?

BRELLIN
Healing much faster than we could
ever anticipate.

SOLADON
Is he awake?

BRELLIN
He is.

SOLADON
I need to see him.

BRELLIN
Yes sir, but..

SOLADON
..Yes?

BRELLIN
He's not really feeling like
himself.

Brellin walks over to a desk in the back and picks up some documents.

BRELLIN
He was hit in a pretty bad spot,
sir. Most of his right side has
bad neural damage. I won't believe
he'll be able to walk for a few
more weeks. And holding a sword?..
It's too bad he just got good..

SOLADON
Hmm.. I need to speak with him. I
believe it's time he knows.

BRELLIN
Are you sure?

Soladon crosses the room to where a blue crystal resides.

SOLADON
Yes, it's time he knows just how
much we have to count on him.

CUT:

INT. PROTUS'S BEDROOM - MIDMORNING

PROTUS
CAN I GET SOME MORE PANCAKES
PLEASE?

Protus's room is stocked full of food. Nurses and guards alike are coming in and out of the room, bringing other plates of food for Protus to devour. He is skinnier, his hair longer, and his skin pale. Protus shoves food into his mouth at an alarming rate.

NURSE #1
We need more of the fried armalite
cores! And fill them with cheese!

GUARD #8
With sour prout or no?

NURSE #1
Sour prout, Protus?

PROTUS
OF COURSE SOUR PROUT! ANYTHING I'M
STARVING.

Protus's aides work in a frenzy going in and out of his room until it comes to a standstill. Nurses and guards make way for Soladon as he steps into Protus's room. Protus stops eating for one second.

SOLADON
..Son?

Soladon motions the aides to leave the room for the moment.

SOLADON
I think this is the first time in
years I've stepped into this room
while you were in it awake. Now,
we can talk.

PROTUS
..Father... But.. About what?

SOLADON
You're a hero now, Protus. I never
thought I would see it, but, here
we are.

PROTUS
..here we are..

SOLADON
Many of the kingdom citizens have a
lot to owe to you, Protus. You've
truly grown into quite the young
man.

Soladon walks over to Protus's desk and picks up a textbook.

SOLADON

To think, my son who went from
being the town's fool to a hero.
You'll be written about in the
history books as the prince who
saved the city.

Protus opens his mouth to respond, but he can't seem to find
the right words.

PROTUS

Yes.. But..

SOLADON

Protus, there's something I need to
tell you. From here on out, many
people are going to look to you as
an authority figure. I know you've
always seeked my attention, and you
have it, and you have your people's
attention, too.

PROTUS

But.. Father..

SOLADON

You have a long journey ahead of
you, still. And I know you have
worries of what will happen to your
arm but stay positive. I
understand you're making a speedy
recovery.

PROTUS

Uhh, well, I guess..

SOLADON

But first before all that, I want
you to know that, despite what's
happened between you, your brother,
and I, it's all been a reason, and
you're ready for it.

Protus lifts the cover off of himself and goes to sit in the
chair next to the window. He looks out at the rising sun as
it starts to glisten off the melting snow on the mountain.

SOLADON

Protus? I'm sure you have a lot
going on in your head but.. You
need to look at the world
differently now. You're a star of
achievement.

Protus turns towards his father, holding a sad stare for
just a minute before returning his gaze out to the window.

PROTUS

Father, even after everything that
I have done, whether good or bad..

SOLADON

..You've performed miraculously,
son..

PROTUS

Yes.. But father..

Soladon's face drops to a sad demeanor.

PROTUS

..At what cost?