**02. SCHLOSS KRIEGLER – THE PIT - ”KURTIS” FMV**

*[Lara lands at the bottom of the ravine, where she finds Kurtis, crumpled against one of its sides, chained to a concrete slab that must have been part of a wall from a couple of stories above. She hasn't seen her partner since leaving him behind to chase after Eckhardt in Prague, and her demeanour turns wide awake at the sight of him.]*

Lara: [quietly, to herself, keeping her distance] ”Kurtis...?” [louder, tentative] ”Kurtis?”

Kurtis: [groans, his right leg twitches with a small effort to move]

Lara: [briskly approaching Kurtis, wary] ”How the hell did you end up here?”

Kurtis: [drowsy, strained] ”Lara...” [he retches, and then contrives a grin] ”You– you're alive.”

Lara: [coolly, with reproach, looking down at him] ”That makes one of us, at least.”

*[Lara retrieves the Chirugai from her backpack. It trembles in her hand, and slips away from her as its blades unfurl. It drifts over to Kurtis' trapped right hand, and settles in his loose grasp while softly humming.]*

Lara: [after a moment's silence] ”I found this when I escaped the Strahov.” [accusatory] ”What happened to you, back there?”

Kurtis: [deadpan, croaky] ”I had – er, an allergic reaction.” [he pauses for effect, looking to Lara for a reaction, then gives into laughter, most of which gets caught in his throat] ”Hell if I was gonna let that bug bitch kill me, though.”

*[Lara clicks her tongue, then kneels and leans into Kurtis' space – who looks off to the side – to test the shackles that have him trapped amongst the debris. They are bulky, and the clasps have rusted shut. She leans back on her haunches and looks around, blowing her fringe out of her eyes.]*

Lara: [pitying, somewhat annoyed] ”Never mind how you got here – you're clearly not in your best shape, and neither are these damned chains, which means we're not going anywhere, until–”

Kurtis: [with conviction, through gritted teeth] ”Take me to the Bloodline Chamber.”

*[Lara stands up, hands on her hips, head tilted as she looks dubiously at Kurtis, who is trying his legs again, barely managing to drag his foot in a short line through the grime he's sitting in.]*

Kurtis: [winded, explanatory] ”It's a remnant of the Lux Veritatis – a simulacrum, these days. A kind of isolation device, built to give their warriors somewhere to 'meditate on their purpose'...”

*[Lara turns halfway on the spot and tunes out Kurtis' explanation, looking into the fog of the pit for a way forward. A vague shape slithers just out of clear sight, resembling some kind of animal, glinting suspiciously at the maw – Lara's focus snaps back to Kurtis.]*

Kurtis: [looking up at her, still trying his legs, exasperated] ”Can you get me out of here?”

Lara: [dryly, now walking away with a sideways glance] ”I'll be right back – don't go anywhere.”