

Promise of Divinity

A prideful phoenix is banished to the human realm and must retrieve the source of her powers while connecting with humanity.

Dalong Hu

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

LINK is sitting idly in his throne. He is a well-built man of indeterminable age, and has a single horn on the left side of his forehead. At his side is Coral dressed in a maid outfit, reading from a long scroll. A servant runs in frantically.

SERVANT

My emperor, two comets are streaking
across the sky, and one of them is
heading -

BOOM! A hole is made in the ceiling. The servant is blasted back by the shockwave and a huge flaming crater is made in the floor. Link flicks a finger, and a stone wall grows in front of himself and Coral. A shadow stands in a cloud of smoke and dust.

AMARYLLIS

Hey, Link! Whatever your status,
emperor or demigod or my sister's
secret lovechild, heed the words of a
true Divinity!

AMARYLLIS is revealed, haughty and commanding. Amaryllis has twin-tails fastened with flower-petal hairbands and red eyeliner bordering her eyes. On her forehead is a diamond crest with three feathers.

AMARYLLIS

My name is Amaryllis. My dear nephew,
nice to meet you. I have something I
need you to do.

Link stares imperturbably, as if bored, but his hand involuntary clenches tightly on his throne.

EXT. OUTSIDE DINING PAVILION - NIGHT

Amaryllis and Link sit opposite a low table in a pavilion at dusk, with yellow lamplight illuminating their faces. Coral is standing off at the side. On the roof of the pavilion reclines a shadowed figure, and standing at the sides of the entrance are Syme and Taize. Syme is a stooped old man with a bow on his back, bald but with a long beard and wild sideburns. A long scar runs across the top of his head. Taize is a burly giant in magnificent armour and wields a wicked halberd.

LINK

I see. I'll dispatch my soldiers to

look in the west then.

AMARYLLIS

Yeah, with my connection I can roughly sense my divine core around there. It's not that useful to you, but bring it to me, serve me well, and maybe I'll help you extend your lifespan.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)

Pitiful mortal. It's enough that I keep your existence as a demigod shush from the divine council. Even being the chairman's child won't save him.

LINK

Alright. Coral!

He motions to the maid. Coral bows, then places cups and pours them tea.

LINK

Just how did you lose something as important as your divine core? Isn't it the source of power for a divinity? ...and how did you find out about me?

Amaryllis throws a questioning glance.

AMARYLLIS

For a mortal with no contact with the divine, you know an awful lot.

LINK (CHUCKLING)

Well, I have been doing some research and experimentation. Maybe one day I'll even figure out a way to ascend. The traces of divinity in my blood have allowed me to do many things.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)

Uh oh. Does he know?

Amaryllis drinks her tea while subtly eyeing Link. He is smiling politely.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)

...doesn't seem like it. How could he know? I was taught that all human records of the Divine Cataclysm were destroyed.

AMARYLLIS

Well then, if you're so curious I
don't mind indulging you.

START FLASHBACK

EXT. DIVINE REALM - DAY

Clouds roil and broken stone slabs and pillars fly. Quietly looming in the background are flowing mountains wreathed in mist. A phoenix breathing fire from overhead is swiped down to the ground by a massive dragon claw. When the dust settles, AMARYLLIS is being held up by the throat by LILIUM, both in human form. They stand on a rounded platform with waterfalls of mist falling into the depths below. Amaryllis has a large blazing flame as her crest. Lilium is older and has two horns protruding from her forehead and cold slitted eyes. Her crest is of a mountain.

AMARYLLIS (GLARING)

Sis, stop! I was just curious!

LILIUM

You should have expected this after
breaking into my hidden domain. Why
Amaryllis? Being a nuisance and a
troublemaker as usual? Or are you
trying to usurp my authority?

AMARYLLIS

You're just a hypocrite Lilium!
Sealing off the human realm all these
centuries, since before I was even
born! But I saw what you're hiding.
Going there yourself, and what's more,
breaking the taboo - (cough)

LILIUM (GRIPPING HARDER)

Stop.

AMARYLLIS

(cough cough) HA! The taboo, birthing
a demigod! Love letters with a human
emperor, and the image of a boy with
one of your horns. Link was his name?
I wonder what will happen to the child
if your subordinates in the council
find out!

Lilium slams Amaryllis' forehead, and a glowing ball of light
is extracted. Lilium points at it, and it flies away down the

platform. The flame in the crest on Amaryllis' forehead dies, leaving behind three feathers.

LILIUM

As you have a death wish, I've sent your divine core into the human realm that you're so curious about. Play around with the lowly rabble down there to get it back.

AMARYLLIS

You're one to talk about playing with-Gufuh!?

Lilium promptly kicks her in the stomach and launches Amaryllis down the platform as well.

LILIUM(ECHOING FROM ABOVE)

Don't talk about that. It's over now. May you avoid perishing like how our lord father did.

EXT. SKY ABOVE HUMAN REALM - DAY

Amaryllis is falling quickly from above while wincing in pain, and in the distance below is the ball of light leaving a glowing trail like a meteor.

AMARYLLIS (SCREAMING AT SKY)

Lilium! Sister or not, once I return I'll report you, have you deposed, and the demigod executed!

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)

...

So this is the human realm.

She looks with bright eyes at the wide world below.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)

That should be the empire the child controls. It's his fault for existing that sis punished me so harshly! As his auntie, I'll make full use of him until I get my divinity back.

Amaryllis spreads her arms, and the hazy image of a giant phoenix appears behind her, helping her fly in the right direction.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)
Without my core, my powers are
draining away too quickly! Already
unable to release my divine creature
form - I'll have to be sparing with my
remaining three phoenix feathers.

Amaryllis accelerates towards the distant empire.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)
Soon I won't even be able to manifest
these wings. I must hurry with the
landing.

END OF FLASHBACK

EXT. OUTSIDE DINING PAVILION - NIGHT

CLINK. Amaryllis' tea cup is set down on her tray.

AMARYLLIS
That's the general gist of things.
Your mother Lilium's inner domain has
an entrance to the human realm. I
succeeded in getting here, but ended
up finding out something I shouldn't
have. No lenience, even against her
sister! ...though I guess I mouthed
off too much.

Link smiles slightly.

AMARYLLIS
What's with that expression? Losing my
divine core is no joke.

LINK
I just thought it was about time.

Suddenly, Amaryllis vision swims. She loses control of her
body and falls to the side.

AMARYLLIS
Huh? You...

Slowly, he approaches, and kneels down close, intimidating.

AMARYLLIS (GLARING)
How?

Link raises an eyebrow.

LINK

Not why, but how? It seems we were each wrongly taking the other to be ignorant. But if you knew that demigods can ascend to Divinity through stealing a divine core, well then, even if I were wrong about your obliviousness, you would still be a fool.

AMARYLLIS

Why blame me for being ignorant that you would be a cold-blooded -

She eyes her surroundings. Link looming, crouched over her. Maid Carol, standing back unobtrusively by the gazebo railing.

AMARYLLIS

- family-betraying -

The two armed men, Syme and Taize, monitoring the situation from the entrance of the gazebo. Her vision is fading.

AMARYLLIS (CLENCHING HER TEETH)

- bastard!

A dagger is in Link's hand. Amaryllis closes her eyes and focuses on the crest of three feathers on her forehead.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)

Seems like I'll need to burn one of my phoenix feathers.

CRASH! Amaryllis flashes open her eyes to see Link being kicked in head by a man that suddenly swung out from above the gazebo's roof. Link flies away and is caught by the burly Taize.

The man who appeared is an androgynous young man with long hair fastened in a pony tail, and a sword in a scabbard fastened to his belt. A ragged travelling cloak flutters out behind him, and he bears a strange resemblance to Link.

BREEZE (GRINNING)

Sorry for intruding on the party!

He ducks below frame, dodging the three throwing knives thrown by Syme. When he reappears, he has Amaryllis slung over his shoulder.

BREEZE
Just passing through.

Breeze dextrously leaps out of the gazebo, unhindered by the weight of an extra person. From Amaryllis' upside-down perspective, she sees the aged Syme having taken out his bow and firing an arrow. Breeze dodges it easily, as though he has eyes on the back of his head. Similarly, Breeze sidesteps Taize's massive halberd that was thrown over like a javelin.

As they gain distance, Link's scream echoes behind them.

LINK (ROARING)
BREEEEEEEEZE!!! GET BACK HERE YOU
SCOUNDREL!

Breeze continues unhesitatingly, fleet of foot.

BREEZE
I see Link has done my introduction
for me.

AMARYLLIS
Who-

BREEZE
It's alright, I'm on your side. You
don't have to push yourself to stay
awake. I'm taking you to a safe place,
the safe place for anyone who opposes
Emperor Link.

Amaryllis' vision slowly fades to black.

START FLASHBACK

EXT. DIVINE REALM FLOATING ISLAND - DAY

Lilium is meditating on a platform overlooking a vast expanse of skyline. Islands float on clouds and ruins of buildings reveal themselves through mists.

AMARYLLIS
Lilium!

Lilium turns, looking at the torii gate behind her, but does not see Amaryllis.

AMARYLLIS(GIGGLING)
Up here!

A child Amaryllis is sitting proudly at the top of the gate, swinging her little legs.

LILIUM (SIGHING)

I thought I told you to cultivate
without breaks for at least a year.
Don't you have the bare minimum of
focus? Why do you always come to
disturb me?

AMARYLLIS

Tell me about the human realm!

LILIUM (FROWNING)

You shouldn't concern yourself with
that. We are special, different.

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. RESISTANCE BASE - DAY

Amaryllis opens her eyes, squinting at the sunlight filtering through the leaves of a tree towering above. She quickly props her body up and looks around. She is in a dilapidated ruins. Holes in the roof let light in, and vines climb on broken stone. The massive tree above her extends through the ceiling. Under the shade, several elders are seated around tables while children run around pillars covered in moss.

BREEZE

Morning Amaryllis. Welcome to the
capital's Resistance headquarters!

Amaryllis looks around. Breeze is reclining on a tree branch, but he jumps down and sits next to her.

AMARYLLIS

What's the Resistance? I don't see
mortals of such ages as capable of
resisting anything.

She looks at a table where a gramps and grandma sit playing chess. A young child is seated on the old woman's lap.

BREEZE

Well, at this time of day, only the
young and the old would be up and
about. Our members try to help the
people who have gotten on the regime's
bad side. Link has not been a lenient
lord, nor is he tolerant of dissent.

Breeze takes on a serious expression.

BREEZE

Even as people's backs break under unfair labor laws and starve due to famine, the empire's coffers are being emptied into his mysterious personal projects.

Suddenly he turns and smiles, though he seems slightly sad.

BREEZE

He wasn't always like this.

AMARYLLIS (SUSPICIOUS)

How do you know?

Breeze looks at the sky, where a bird is flying over. He raises one of his arms, and the bird lands on it.

BREEZE

...I was raised in the palace as one of his retainers. But let's set that aside for now.

He retrieves a letter tied to the bird's leg, and starts reading. The two sit there in silence for a while, until Amaryllis can take it no longer and suddenly shoots up.

AMARYLLIS

Why have you brought me here anyway? Are you trying to use me for your puny little resistance movement? Assuming you heard everything that bastard Link and I talked about, then you know he's heading north to steal my divine core at this very moment! And I don't think your group of deadweights can help me on that.

Breeze raises an eyebrow, staring quietly. Amaryllis turns away.

AMARYLLIS

...sorry Breeze, I misspoke. But I'm leaving. I'll figure this out myself.

BREEZE

They're not deadweight.

Amaryllis wheels around, snapping.

AMARYLLIS (FLARING UP)

Huh!?

But Breeze isn't picking a fight. He isn't even angry, and instead has an embarrassed smile on his face.

BREEZE

Sorry, sorry. My fault for not explaining well!

He faces the big tree, back to Amaryllis.

BREEZE

See, our messenger birds from all over the empire nest in this tree. The folks here are in charge of communications. We all have a role to play.

Suddenly, Breeze wheels back around and bows deeply.

BREEZE

Divinity Amaryllis. As head of the resistance, we would be honoured to serve you in your quest.

He promptly abandons his formal air and grins cheekily.

BREEZE

I mean, no matter how tactless you are, unlike Link you won't massacre us as soon as you get that divine core.

AMARYLLIS (GRUMBLING)

For that remark, I should just massacre you now.

Well, what have you got to offer?

Breeze waves the letter in his hands while exiting towards the entrance doors. He waves her over, and Amaryllis grudgingly follows.

BREEZE

I was waiting here to get any news of that 'meteor' shower as soon as possible. We're in luck. Our rangers in the village Rosewood report seeing a comet flying into the nearby mountains, and are searching for it as we speak.

Suddenly, the doors of the entrance SLAM open, and a young man in dirty workers clothes barges in.

YOUNG MAN

Breeze, your prediction was spot on!
The imperial forces are no longer
turning a blind eye to our actions and
are cracking down hard!

BREEZE

Alright. Organize the evacuation as
planned.

BREEZE (TURNING TO AMARYLLIS)

We need to leave, now.

Breeze runs towards the exit, but pauses upon seeing
Amaryllis' hesitancy.

BREEZE

Come on! I have a plan. We need to
travel quickly and covertly, and I'll
be enough to guide you to Rosewood. If
we cut back on sleep to ride
continuously the journey will take
only a few days.

Amaryllis bites her lip but ultimately follows.

EXT. BUSTLING MARKET STREET NEAR GATES - DAY

Two groups of three armoured knights are patrolling the
marketplace streets, and another two are separated, talking
to street vendors. Breeze and Amaryllis are hidden behind a
stack of crates.

BREEZE(PEEPING OVER)

Okay, if we sneak out here where their
defences are weakest and ...hm?

Amaryllis has vanished from behind him.

AMARYLLIS

Move it, tin can!

With a roundhouse kick, she easily sends one of the lone
knights soaring through the sky, knocking a group of his
fellows down like bowling pins.

AMARYLLIS

It feels so good to blow off some

steam! Even if my divine magic has mostly left me, I still have my raw strength as a Divinity! Breeze, come on! We're heading for the gate right?

BREEZE (GRINNING)
Coming right over!

Breeze closes his eyes and rushes out, disarms a knight, and whacks him down with the hilt of his sword. He speeds through the crowd, disarming the remaining three knights. Amaryllis then punts them like soccer balls in every direction.

Suddenly, Breeze notices something, and slices through an arrow speeding at his head.

BREEZE
Amaryllis, on the rooftop to your right!

She glances over, and overlooking them is the old man Syme, beard blowing in the wind and bald head gleaming in the sunlight. Amaryllis recognizes him from back at the palace gazebo. She strikes a gun pose with her right hand, and fires a massive but dense bullet of fire. Syme ducks behind a chimney as a large chunk of the roof is demolished.

BREEZE
If Bald Eagle Syme and his special forces squad are after us, we've got to hurry.

Breeze bats away an arrow that is accompanied by Syme's howl.

SYME
It's Eagle Eye, not Bald Eagle, you shitty brat!

BREEZE
Come, a side exit of the city wall is ahead.

EXT. OUTER CITY WALLS - DAY

Spurred on by Breeze, the horse starts galloping and the wheels of the horse cart start moving. Breeze is riding the horse in front. Amaryllis kicks a soldier back into his companions and jumps into the cart while firing bolts of fire to deter the soldiers running out of the entrance passage.

AMARYLLIS

Tsk. Persistent lot.

They gain distance as the horse cart leaves the foot soldiers in the dust, but arrows start to whiz overhead. Horse mounted soldiers wielding bows race out of the city walls after them.

BREEZE

Can't you do something about it with your divine powers? Surely divinities can do more than kick their foes and send out sparkles.

AMARYLLIS

I disdain using my remaining powers these meagre foes. You do something.

An arrow aimed at Breeze is swatted aside by his sword.

BREEZE

I'm only human and can't take on that many. Please, these regular soldiers have horrible aim but they'll catch up at this point! Just something to shake them off.

AMARYLLIS

Useless. Fine, I guess I'll have to show you a bit of what I can usually do.

Amaryllis touches the diamond crest of three feathers on her forehead.

AMARYLLIS

Three phoenix feathers of condensed divinity left, remnants of my divine creature form. It's a shame to use one on this rabble, but I suppose I have no choice.

Amaryllis draws out a feather of light from her crest. Using a finger to guide it, she slowly points it at the pursuing horde of knights and soldiers. The crest on her forehead changes from three feathers to two.

AMARYLLIS

Burn to cinders!

Suddenly her arm is caught by Breeze, who had leapt from the horse into the cart.

BREEZE

Wait, stop!

AMARYLLIS

What now? You asked for this!

BREEZE

Dial back the death and destruction!
Many are just following orders, and
militia are even mixed in.

Amaryllis pouts and changes her point to a slow wave. A massive wall of fire towering to the sky erupts behind them, rendering the cavalry incapable of advancing. Amaryllis quietly stares at the raging flames.

AMARYLLIS

I'm different from you people. Time
passes differently in the divine
realm, and Divinities are immortal.

She has a dark look in her eyes.

AMARYLLIS

In the blink of an eye they pass away,
so why should I care in the first
place?

BREEZE

... Come on, you don't really feel
that way do you? That's a very lonely
way of life.

AMARYLLIS

Humph! You're just too soft!

We see two from a strangely distant perspective.

AMARYLLIS

It'll bite you one day.

A drawn out bow on the castle wall, ready to fire, arrow-tip
honed in on Breeze's head.

SYME

...

But then Syme drops the bow, a slight smile on his face. A young man with loose hair and dead-fish eyes in the special forces uniform approaches.

SPECIAL FORCES SOLDIER
Sir Syme, why didn't you order our
special forces team to attack?

SYME (ACTING SURPRISED)
Eh, didn't I? I must be getting
senile.

He shakes his bald head, his long scar prominent.

SYME
My aim is shaky and even my eyesight
isn't what it used to be. Of course,
my hair is still as lush as ever.

He looks at Breeze in the distant horse cart.

SYME
But with age I get the pleasure of
seeing you young-uns grow up into
splendid adults.

EXT. QUIET FOREST ROAD - DAY

The sun is high up in the sky. Amaryllis is looking above at
the clouds while sitting in the back of the cart. Surrounding
the narrow road are endless forests.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)
The human realm can be decent at
times. I can see life in the human
realm isn't peaceful nor easy, but
many are united.

She looks at Breeze, who is seated at the front with his back
facing her.

EXT. LITTLE ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Day flows into dusk, and they have arrived at a minor
settlement. Both have gotten dressed in hooded travelling
cloaks. From a small distance, Amaryllis watches Breeze play
with a few children by the inn. As she focuses on the child's
face, in her vision it seems to age into an old man.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)
Humans that grow old and die, forget
and are forgotten before I even
realize. I'm not like them - I'm
different.

BRIEF FLASHBACK

LILIUM

We are special, different.

END FLASHBACK

Amaryllis reminisces on the beautiful but empty divine realm.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)

There aren't many of us in the divine realm to begin with, and we live our long lives in isolated domains.

Brief flashes of more travelling.

INT. NOISY TAVERN - NIGHT

Another day has passed. Amaryllis and Breeze are sitting at a table in their thick cloaks, with big mugs in front of them.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)

I can appreciate the peace and quiet, but sometimes it's a bit... lonely.

Amaryllis sips from the cups and suddenly chokes. Breeze, whose face is already red, laughs loudly and smacks her on the back a few times.

BREEZE

There's a lot in the human realm to experience! Why don't Divinities come down here more?

Amaryllis shoots him a reproachful gaze.

AMARYLLIS

The era when we walked the land ended when my father, our leader at the time, was killed in the Divine Cataclysm for his core. Sis Liliium took over, and the passage between realms was sealed. I was still a baby at the time.

She looks into the strange liquid in her mug.

AMARYLLIS

I guess I'm not used to the bustle. Just... a little out of place.

Link smiles.

LINK

You're more similar than I thought,
worrying just like the rest of us! I
guess Divinities are the same as us,
same simple emotions.

EXT. CLIFFSIDE MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

The noon sun is shining hard overhead. Each are riding
quickly on a horses.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)

So he says. Perhaps I understand less
about humanity than I thought. And
even less about the bonds between
beings.

BREEZE

Emperor Link is my brother you know.

Amaryllis eyes narrow, and she straightens her pose.

AMARYLLIS

Why tell me now? Betraying me after
taking me so far?

BREEZE

I am sincere in helping you. If Link
gets the divinity, he would cause
suffering. Brothers we may be, but I
disapprove of his actions.

Amaryllis settles back down.

AMARYLLIS

Wait... how can you be his brother?
Lilium only had a single child with
the previous ruler.

BREEZE

Well, half-brother. I'm the product of
the affair that caused your sister to
leave. I grew up in the palace, and
lived with my mother in the servant's
quarters.

Breeze looks at the sky, as if reminiscing.

BREEZE

Despite its difficulty, life was peaceful, but one day the truth came out and we tried to escape. Mother didn't make it, but I escaped to a reclusive temple. I was safe, but I was angry at the world. I was determined to return one day and raise hell in the capital. This might be arrogant, but I was talented, smart, crafty, and had the status.

AMARYLLIS

Then was the Resistance formed to start a rebellion?

BREEZE

No. My selfish goals changed, and I've changed. Through time, and through other people, I have become the person I am now.

FLASHBACK MONTAGE

Breeze remembers flashes of scenes in his life. As a young adult, being surrounded warmly by many people in shabby clothes in a crumbling house. As a teenager, bandaged up after a fight, listening with a scowl to an aged monk. As a child, being pushed aside by his mother as she is slashed by a massive halberd. Missing the target completely with a bow, and sheering off the hair on old Syme's head. And watching Link practice swordsmanship from afar when he was still a servant boy.

BREEZE

I realized that even with my unique circumstances, I am not so different from other people. Perhaps you would find that as comforting as I did.

END OF FLASHBACK

Amaryllis stares at the empty road before them in silence.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

A bonfire is in the centre of the square, and there are people laughing and dancing. Lantern lights shine in the darkness, and villagers gather in front of brightly lit stalls. Amaryllis is standing alone in front of the flames.

BRIEF FLASHBACK

BREEZE

We've finally arrived in Rosewood! And right in time for the annual festival. I'll contact the rangers. Maybe they already retrieved your divine core and are just waiting to give it to us! You should take the chance enjoy yourself before you return to the divine realm.

END OF FLASHBACK.

She turns and sees Breeze sitting and talking with a huddled group of cloaked men, before having her gaze wander over all the people here.

BREEZE (IN THE DISTANCE)

Strange. And where is Jadus?

She crosses her arms around herself, and steps closer towards the fire, as if for warmth.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)

I've never been this weak before. So this is a human life?

Suddenly, her eyes widen and she stiffens. She dashes over to where Breeze and the rangers sit.

AMARYLLIS

Breeze!

BREEZE

What's up?

AMARYLLIS

The divine core! My connection to it suddenly cut out!

BREEZE

It's alright. We know the area where it should be. We'll find it with a bit more searching.

AMARYLLIS

No, it means Link has somehow absorbed my divinity and is on the verge of ascension!

Breeze is momentarily stunned.

BREEZE

But... how? This whole area is under
Resistance control. Unless...

DIRE, the grizzled ranger sitting closest to Link speaks up.

DIRE

A traitor. Damn Jadus went missing for
a while after comet fell. He must have
found it and sent it somewhere.

AMARYLLIS

This isn't the time for that! If we
get to where he is now, before the
ascendence is complete, we might...

BREEZE

Alright, let's stay calm. Let's think
this through. If we organize a search-

AMARYLLIS

And run around aimlessly in the dark!?
In even a quarter of an hour - arrgh
it's useless!

Amaryllis looks around, and people are staring at her. She
dashes off into the darkness. Breeze tries to follow, but
can't keep up.

EXT. LAKESIDE - NIGHT

In the forest, Amaryllis is sitting on a rock at the bank of
a lake.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)

A divine core is not only a Divinity's
source of power, but also the source
of their immortality.

She stares at her surroundings. The blades of grass, waving
in a light breeze. The bugs crawling on flowers. The passing
birds.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)

How do I face brief life, knowing that
true death will come? Do I cling on to
my remaining bits of power to extend
my time?

Amaryllis takes in the fullness of where she is.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)
And why is it now, that everything
seems so fresh and clear?

She stands up, and looks down at the reflection of the night sky on the lake surface.

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)
How have I lived? There was never a
need to think of this before.

Then she looks at the sky.

AMARYLLIS
Home... Perhaps it isn't as dreary as
I thought.

Suddenly, there is a vague rumbling in the distance.
Amaryllis quickly looks towards the source, and sees smoke
lit up by firelight coming from the village.

EXT. VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - NIGHT

Amaryllis is dashing through the forest. She finally sees the village in the distance, houses burning and armoured soldiers walking through the shambles.

Suddenly, she hears something and turns to sees Link's attendant, the maid Coral, approaching her while carrying a flail. Without waiting for her to get close, Amaryllis flashes over

CORAL
Wait-

and kicks at Coral's face. Coral puts her armoured arms in a cross guard just in time but gets knocked back into a tree, shoes leaving two streaks in the dirt. Amaryllis closes the distance immediately.

CORAL
Link is nearby and still vulnerable!

Amaryllis pauses, and Coral drops the flail and raises her hands.

CORAL
I'm part of the Resistance! The one
who informed Breeze that you and Link
would be talking at the gazebo!

Amaryllis stops and smiles

AMARYLLIS

I see.

and punches her in the stomach anyways.

CORAL

COUGH - what was that for!?

AMARYLLIS

For poisoning my drink. Now what were you saying?

Coral glares at her, but relents.

CORAL (GRUMBLING)

Link failed. He's gone insane from the massive amount of energy in your divine core, attacking anyone close by. He can't ascend, but he's still trying to assimilate the core. There's a chance you can retrieve it if you hurry!

Amaryllis glances at the burning village.

AMARYLLIS

...

CORAL

Breeze will understand. We can't take the risk of Link gaining the power of a Divinity.

Amaryllis turns away and looks at Coral.

AMARYLLIS

Where is Link?

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Breeze is breathing heavily and has his eyes closed. He is standing back-to-back with Dire, who is dual-wielding daggers. The two are surrounded by soldiers, but manage to dispatch them one by one. Yet, more enemies continue to show up, and in the distance many of their allies are being cut down.

BREEZE (THOUGHT)

An unwavering blade. Swift and

flexible as the wind. That is the impression I try to give to reassure others.

Breeze cuts down another foe, and narrowly dodges the swipe of a sword.

BREEZE (THOUGHT)
Yet I wonder and question life like everyone else. How do I truly feel about Link? My supposed enemy.

Breeze remembers about when he, as a servant boy, laid under the shade of a vast tree next to a young Link, his memory lingering on Link's smile.

BREEZE (THOUGHT)
I still believe in his humanity. To face him with killing intent... But with this, peace has been broken.

Breeze parries a blade that is about to strike his ranger partner, but suffers a wound from an enemy during that unguarded moment. He falls to the ground

BREEZE (THOUGHT)
Even if what I stood for in the past becomes meaningless, and the future uncertain, even under crushing doubt -

Dire is cut down in one savage stroke, and out of the smoke of the fire emerges a massive figure. Taize has a demonic smile on his face and his halberd is stained with blood.

BREEZE (THOUGHT)
- I must stand strong in the present.

TAIZE
BREEZE! I've come to finish the job from 15 years ago!

Breeze stands up, and Taize grins wider.

TAIZE
Say hello to your mother in hell!

Breeze is ganged up on by Taize and the surrounding soldiers, but he still manages to take out some of his foes.

BREEZE (ROARING)
Come, you dogs of the Emperor! You

need more than that to take me down!

Suddenly, there is a voice from one of the rooftops.

AMARYLLIS

That's the spirit!

Breeze turns and sees Amaryllis standing up high, touching her forehead and drawing out a glowing mass of light.

AMARYLLIS

Flames of rejuvenation!

She crushes the light in her hand, and illusory flames erupt from the ground all over the village. The crest on her forehead changes from two feathers, to a single one.

Soldiers scream while the rangers and villagers look at their healing wounds in astonishment.

SOLDIER

Arrrrgghh, it burns!

AMARYLLIS

Stop gawking you fools, with this many people the effects will soon fade!

AMARYLLIS (V.O. THOUGHT)

And what a fool am I to do this, now that these feathers of divinity are my lifespan. One left...

The villagers roar, and start to overwhelm the soldiers.

BREEZE (THOUGHT)

Perhaps I was a little too self-focused there. There will be a solution.

He smiles and dashes into the fray, unleashing a powerful blow that causes Taize to stagger back.

EXT. RATHER BURNT VILLAGE SQUARE - DAY

The bright morning sky. Amaryllis stares at it absentmindedly, and then sips some tea. She is sitting relaxedly, ankle-on-knee, back leaning against table and overlooking the square. Behind her on the table is a tea set, and standing primly by it to her left is Coral. Sitting to her right is Breeze.

AMARYLLIS
How are the casualties?

Dire the ranger stands before them, and in the background villagers are tending to the wounded.

DIRE
Surprisingly low, thanks to your grace.

BREEZE
That's a relief. It's my fault. They probably only attacked the village to kill me and Amaryllis, because that traitor Jadus told them our location.

DIRE
Don't mind. We all knew the risks of supporting the Resistance. Then next... we will attack the Emperor himself?

AMARYLLIS
No.

She stares at the wounded people in the background.

AMARYLLIS
Not we. There is no need for you weaklings to tag along. Supporting so many people would only cause my final feather's energy to expire faster.

She turns to Breeze.

AMARYLLIS
But Breeze, I acknowledge your strength, and you have the right to see this through as his brother.

Breeze closes his eyes, then opens them again with a smile.

BREEZE
Of course I'm coming.

He grins.

BREEZE
We'll kick his butt and retrieve your core! But I guess it'll be goodbye when you head back to the divine realm

after.

Amaryllis shakes her head.

AMARYLLIS

Even if he failed to ascend, no matter how mad he is he would have fully absorbed my divine core by now. And only my sister had the technique to forcefully punch it out of someone. Unless he spits it out himself, I'm...

She suddenly scowls at Breeze.

AMARYLLIS

What are you still grinning for?

BREEZE (SCRATCHING CHEEK AWKWARDLY)

Sorry. But even if you feel you're stranded here, I'm happy you'll stay.

AMARYLLIS (FACING AWAY)

Tsk.

She turns her body the opposite away to place her tea cup on the table behind her.

DIRE

I agree. You are my benefactor. That slash from Taize was a mortal wound.

CORAL (NODDING)

A kind immortal to help guide humanity through the ages.

Amaryllis finishes placing her cup and looks up. She's trying to keep a serious face, but is clearly embarrassed.

AMARYLLIS

Shut up. Just guide me and Breeze to Link. Now.

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - DAY

The earth is scorched, and a huge area has been stripped of wildlife. Link stands at the centre. On his forehead is an empty diamond crest. He now has two horns, one white and one black. His eyes are closed.

He sees darkness and mist. He sees himself as a child, reaching out a hand to Breeze who fell down. His reaching

hand is grasped by his mother Liliun, who pulls him along as they walk together. He reaches out as Liliun leaves, but then retracts his hand. He stands alone, a teenager, under the calculating eyes of court officials. He closes his eyes.

Link opens his eyes in the real world, and his pupils are draconic slits. He sees Breeze dashing at him, and Amaryllis a bit further behind, conjuring a massive fireball. The ground is already awash with illusory flames of regeneration from Amaryllis' last feather.

LINK (ROARING)

LEAVE!

In Link's memories, he turns his back against his guest.

LINK (QUIETLY)

Leave me.

A younger Breeze looks disappointed, and turns his back as well.

Link is sitting bored in his throne, and Coral is reporting to him.

CORAL

The people's discontent is mounting!
Why don't you take a bit of Breeze's
advice?

LINK

What? Breeze? Him and his little
Resistance? It is only for the sake of
our past that I ignore his activities.

In reality, an explosion occurs as a fireball crashes into a wall of Earth. Behind Link, Breeze appears with a determined gaze.

LINK

You! Betrayer and hypocrite!

Link slams the ground, and the earth quakes. Spikes of earth pierce skywards, but Breeze deftly avoids them with only minor injuries that immediately regenerate. Amaryllis is flying in the sky with fiery wings, while continuing to fire off meteor storms of fire. Link raises his arms, and a dome of earth encloses both him and Breeze. Within the dome, Breeze engages in close combat with Link.

Link blocks Breeze's blade by growing earthen armour, and a

skewer of earth cuts off Breeze's arm. The arm regenerates in a burst of flame, and Breeze punches Link in the face.

BREEZE

Wake up! Return to your senses!

Link glares at Breeze hatefully. Suddenly, the dome cracks upon, and Amaryllis crashes in like a meteor. Link quickly disappears behind an earth wall. Amaryllis kicks off the ground, transforming into a flaming missile and breaking through the wall, only to skewer her side on a spike. She is apathetic, and the wound soon heals.

AMARYLLIS

Little tricks. Where are you?

From Link's point of view, there is darkness.

LINK (THOUGHT)

Where am I you ask? I've always been somewhere, lost, between heaven and earth.

More spikes emerge from the earth and soar skywards. Some pierce their targets, but they just regenerate.

LINK (THOUGHT)

I've had enough. Both of the evils of human nature, and the high-minded apathy of the divine.

Link emerges from the earth to engage in hand to hand combat with Breeze and Amaryllis. The two are continuously wounded but regenerate, while Link relies on his armour of earth for defence. Finally, a cut is made on Breeze's face that doesn't regenerate.

LINK

It seems your regeneration has ended.

LINK (THOUGHT)

But sometimes I realize that I am just afraid. Afraid, and too prideful of my divine blood to connect with my people. Too insecure about my humanity to face reality. But I am now just tired.

Link rushes forwards, and punctures Breeze straight through the gut with his arm.

LINK (THOUGHT)
Too tired to care anymore.

Link apathetically stares at Breeze's face, which is so like his own, and withdraws his hand. Breeze's body leans forwards with the motion, and his sword falls to the ground with a CLINK.

LINK (THOUGHT)
Too tired for my past reservations.

Link suddenly stiffens. Breeze is weakly hugging him.

BREEZE (WHISPERING)
I'm sorry.

Breeze then falls sideways to the ground, and Link stares at him, momentarily still. In that brief unguarded instance, a bolt of fire pierces through Link's chest. Link sees Amaryllis standing nearby.

LINK (THOUGHT)
Aahh, perhaps...

In his vision, Amaryllis' sad face superimposes with the face of his mother, Liliu.

LINK (THOUGHT)
I just wanted to see her one last time. I'm sorry...

LINK
I couldn't be the link between heaven and earth.

Link collapses.

Amaryllis stands before both their bodies. She sighs.

AMARYLLIS
Brothers in the end huh. But you can't go yet, Breeze. In the end, when faced with mortality, you are the one that many people will grieve over. My feathers are spent, but with this last bit...

Amaryllis touches the crest on her head, which is empty and has no feathers left, and it completely disappears. She directs the energy at Breeze's body, and it begins to heal.

AMARYLLIS

Now, I am fully mortal. But a mortal who has already lived far past their lifespan. But I have lived for long enough.

Amaryllis stares at the hole in the dome where their battle took place, at the bright sky beyond and the light streaming in. She closes her eyes, but hears a weak voice.

LINK

Count me amazed. Maybe gods do feel after all.

Link has propped himself up, and is holding out the divine core in his hand. The crest on his forehead is fading, and a stream of energy is still flowing from it into the core.

LINK

With the remainder of my lifespan, I return what is originally yours.

Wordlessly staring at Link, Amaryllis takes it. Link smiles.

LINK

Auntie, I have finished what you originally asked of me. In return, I have a final request.

Link turns to stare out the hole in the dome, towards the divine realm.

EXT. EMPIRE CAPITAL - DAY

A phoenix flies out from the clouds, dropping feathers at the throngs of cheering people below. The phoenix flies towards the palace.

EXT. PALACE BALCONY - DAY

Breeze is standing on the balcony, staring at the city spreading out before him. A voice comes from behind him.

AMARYLLIS

Come on, at least dress the part of an emperor.

BREEZE (CHUCKLING)

I feel more natural like this. And it seems you've taken to the human realm quite a bit, coming back so quickly.

AMARYLLIS

About Link's... well, did you know?

BREEZE

Nah. I was shocked when I heard from you. Maybe he knew he was going to meet a bad end, and wanted to keep them away from it all.

Amaryllis gazes into the distance, and remembers opening the door to a dark room. Two children, a boy and a girl, each with a little stubbed horn on their forehead look up.

AMARYLLIS

I'm starting to feel old.

BREEZE (SMIRKING)

You are.

AMARYLLIS

Shut it. Well, now I get to call Liliu grandma. Living up there with her shouldn't be too bad. Boring, but safe and peaceful. Better than this appalling place.

BREEZE

Then why is someone as free-spirited as you still here?

Amaryllis looks over the city, at all the people walking the streets.

AMARYLLIS

My sister descended to see if humans had changed. If divinities and mortals could once more walk side by side. Link was born to be a sign of renewed unity between the realms. And maybe he will be.

Amaryllis smiles.

AMARYLLIS

I still have the last part of my promise to fulfill.