

THE BEHOLDER

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INT. THE BLACK WATERS OF THE SEA - NIGHT

A man's body keeps going down to the bottom of the Kwang River. Blood pours out of his chest, slowly, flowing, becoming one with the dark water.

He struggles and fights to untie the ropes that bind his hands and legs.

The man has his eyes wide open, but they're empty. No life there.

FADE TO:

INT. ROAD TO THE CASTLE - NIGHT

A group of 3 horsemen navigate a river on a small boat that goes through the city, directly to the Grimseer castle. Coldness is captured by theirs and the horse's breaths. People open their windows to see what's going on. On the back, far from them, we see troops lowering cargo on the docks.

People that live near the river are standing outside their houses, looking at the boat. A man talks with his wife as they see the boat passing.

MAN

They're saying Emperor Qorrigan is
dead.

WOMAN

I heard he fled with his
Codebearers.

MAN

I don't think so, his galleys are
still in the underground docks,
Mike just came from there.

On the boat, the rider on the left, a big giant fella named
Len, spits out and cleans his mouth with a dirty
handkerchief. It's dark, and we can barely see his face.

LEN

Bitch sprinkled all over me.

The rider in the middle takes a good look at the castle, that
gets bigger with every inch they advance. It's really dark,
but the giant full moon and the torches all over the town
light up his pale white freckled face. Vibrant red hair flows
down his shoulders. He's tall and slinky, and looks like his
feet are going to touch the floor even though he's on a
beastly horse. His name is SIMON.

SIMON

Gather these people. I'll chat with
them after I see the Black Orb.

LEN

I need to get cleaned up. He fucked
up my coat.

The rider on the right, Ernest, a shorter but buffed dude,
throws a small lemon shell to the giant one. As he sucks on
the fruit his eyes twist as the acidity hits his tongue.

ERNEST

I'm gonna fuck you up if you don't
stop protesting over a dirty old
coat. Blood splatters.

LEN

Emilia gave it to me just before we departed, I can't just throw it away yet.

ERNEST

She's gonna be throwing herself on some royal douche now that you're gone.

LEN

Fuck off.

Simon keeps looking at the giant castle, that's already there, waiting for him.

INT. GRIMSEER ISLE - NIGHT

A shadowy figure of a woman standing on the roof of one of the houses that's near the shore. Far, in the middle of the ocean, we can see ships, one of them sinking. Fire arrows are shot around, and screams as burning bodies run around the sinking ship, that showcases the sigil of a round flower.

Two men run by the house. The woman looks at them as they go.

MEN 1

That's Derrida's banner right there on that burning ship.

MEN 2

I thought they weren't at the Chair's side.

MEN 1

Apparently they weren't at peace with the Rat Knights, either.

METZ

Shit.

The forest behind her rumbles with the sound of wind. Cold comes down from the near mountains. Her hands shake, but not from the cold. From fear. She closes her eyes and her fists.

FADE TO.

INT. THE KINGDOM CASTLE - NIGHT

Numerous candles light up a big room, where a man, King Linus, sits on his golden throne. A woman, Queen Dina, enters the room accompanied by one Knight that is wearing the same sigils as the three horsemen we saw before.

DINA

They must have arrived by now.

The knight, a black man named Cole, approaches the King.

COLE

Simon and the rest of the company
will send word once everything is
in order.

Linus takes a disdainful look at Cole.

LINUS

And you rats better don't fuck with
me.

Dina, with a smirky smile, sits next to Linus as she drinks a glass of wine.

INT. EMPEROR'S CHAMBER. GRIMSEER CASTLE - NIGHT

Simon, Ernest and Len enter Emperor Qorrigan's Throne Room. Behind them bodies upon bodies are lying dead on the floor.

His massive chair is made of oak so sturdy not even a canon could break it. The decrepit old man is sipping from a cup. The first thing they noticed when they entered is a young boy whispering something to Qorrigan. There are 8 guards standing around Qorrigan's throne.

The three horsemen stand by the door. Qorrigan whispers something to the little kid. As the kid listens and is about to answer, Qorrigan smacks his face. The kid walks away and leaves the room. Simon and him exchange looks.

QORRIGAN

So... The majestic Rat Knights.

Simon enters the room and gets closer to the wooden chair as Len and Ernest wait.

QORRIGAN (CONT'D)

Aren't you a proper Eastlander with your red hair... What the fuck is this?

SIMON

It's time you give up The Chair, old man.

One of the guards starts unfolding his weapon. Qorrigan lifts two fingers.

QORRIGAN

Is King Bitch Linus and his bitch making you do this?

Simon slowly walks around Qorrigan's throne. He takes one of his small knives in his hands and presses the blade against his palm.

QORRIGAN (CONT'D)

This Chair's for a ginger rat.

Simon shoots a look at Len and Ernest, who nod and walk away, along with the guards. Qorrigan looks at them, disappointed but not surprised.

QORRIGAN (CONT'D)

Just a bunch of fucking turncoats.
What did you offer? Black Honey?
Good luck getting a good deal from
that Bitch King.

Simon burns his hand as he keeps touching the blade, that is starting to get as red as blood, but not from it.

SIMON

I'm not giving anything to anyone,
I'm just taking it from you.

QORRIGAN

They don't want some renegade
sitting here. You'll never run this
country peacefully.

Simon takes the blade and presses it against Qorrigan's cheek. The man screams in pain.

SIMON

You're right.

EXT. RIVER KWANG - NIGHT

An arm grabs the body of the man we saw earlier. This arm drags the dead body off the water, leaving it on the stoney terrain next to the river.

The woman, METZ, takes off her coat, revealing her dark brown skin. With one hand she gently touches the water, making a pool on her palm. With the other hand she touches the dead man's body on the chest.

INT. BLACK ORB CHAMBER. GRIMSEER CASTLE - DAWN

The first light of dawn enters from the windows of the main room on the castle, the Black Orb Chamber.

Len grabs the little kid by his arm and gives him a small letter with a wax seal.

LEN

Send this one, kid.

The kid takes the envelope from Len's hand and walks away.

Simon is standing in front of a circular pool filled with black water. He looks up at the biggest window, blinded by light, and then looks down again. He fixes up his red hair with his bloody steaming hand.

SIMON

No reflection. It's just me.

EXT. RIVER KWANG - DAWN

Metz pours the water on the man's face. The black liquid drips over his forehead and down to her face. As it happens, she finally opens her eyes.

As the water touches his cornea, the black pupil devours the white of the eye.

With an unnatural spasm, the dead corpse sits up, gasping and panting as water pours from his mouth. He tries to sit up as he grabs Metz by her wrist.

KASH

Who the fuck are you?!

Metz and Kash look at each other, as the sun starts coming up, reflecting a light that gets lost in the black river.