

KRUGAN'S OUTPOST

Written by

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FADE IN.

EXT. THE CITY OF GWASHALT - DAY

A cobblestone road leads into a small Medieval town, with a small fortress at the center. The sign at the road says "Welcome to the Capitol: Gwashalt." Across the sign is a splash of blood.

A leather boot steps onto the road into the city.

The CAMERA pans back to show KELLE FRITAS, who wears a short, black cloak over perfectly-fitted leather armor. Kelle's walk-on song plays: "Looks That Kill," by Motley Crue.

MOTLEY CRUE (V.O.)

*Now she's a cool, cool black
She moves like a cat
If you don't get her name
Well, you might not make it back
She's got the looks that kill, that
kill, oh
She's got the looks that kill, that
kill, oh*

Kelle is a Chinese woman (*played by Meng'er Zhang*). Up and down her armor, various blades are strapped on. Two crossed belts carry small vials that hold various liquids. She carries a short blood-stained sword. On the blade is the double-V insignia of the Yukio people.

As she makes her way through the city, Kelle passes a wide array of monuments and statues and murals, all in some way connected to the slaughter of various monsters. They include a wide array of historical monsters from mythology and literature.

Nothing moves anywhere in the city. The corpses of humans dot the landscape. They all wear the blue and silver of the Capitol Guard. Each wears a leather strap around their necks marked with a lighthouse insignia that represents the Malagig clan.

Kelle stops to stare at the corpse of a MAN with a huge hole torn into his chest, his heart removed savagely.

In the corpse's hand is a bloody dagger, the insignia of the Yukio people branded the leather hilt.

Kelle takes the dagger and sticks it in her belt. She keeps moving.

She comes across the Capitol Building, a round building made of white marble and surrounded by columns. Atop the Capitol is a lighthouse, but the light has been extinguished. The number of dead humans here is more than elsewhere. Whatever killed them is gone, leaving no dead behind.

Kelle gives the building a wide berth as she moves towards the back. Somewhere in the shadows a rock falls to the ground.

Her eyes dart that direction. Sword at the ready.

From the shadows a small, cute, furry bear walks towards her. It has sharp claws, razor teeth and eyes that glow a faint green. This is a Cretiaff.

KELLE

Damnation.

Two more Cretiaffs emerge from the shadows. The eyes of the first one grow a bit brighter green.

CRETIAFF

Yes. Damnation.

The Cretiaffs attack. They are shockingly fast. Their walk-on song plays: "Tear You Apart," by She Wants Revenge.

SHE WANTS REVENGE (V.O.)

*I want to hold you close
Soft breasts, beating heart
As I whisper in your ear
I want to fucking tear you apart*

With a record scratch, the MUSIC ends as Kelle decapitates the first Cretiaff, green smoke rises from the severed neck, which reveals that the Cretiaff is made of wood covered in fur.

The second Cretiaff attacks and she slices upwards from the bottom, cutting it in half. The magical mechanical construct falls to the ground, green smoke rising from within.

The third Cretiaff holds back, wary of Kelle. A half dozen others emerge from the shadows. Kelle turns and runs.

The Cretiaffs give chase, but Kelle's legs are much longer than theirs, so she gets a good lead. She moves past the shadows of the Capitol Building to come upon a massive graveyard. Sitting in the center of the graveyard is KRUGAN'S OUTPOST. A two-story marble building, smaller than the capitol by quite a bit.

The graveyard overflows with grave markers, each of which is a set of connected steel poles in an X formation. Over each X hangs the clan insignia of the deceased. A few bear Kelle's Yukio insignia. The most common are the lighthouse insignia of the Malagig.

The land is uneven, so the graves aren't all on the same level. The graves seem to be nearly infinite and of variable size. A single path leads through the graveyard to Krugan's Outpost.

Standing at the edge of the graveyard is VOLODYMYR. He is a man in his 40s of Ukrainian ancestry. He wears the blue and silver of the Capitol Guard and the lighthouse totem of the Malagig.

Kelle crosses a patch of grass towards Volodymyr confidently.

KELLE

Where is the rest of the Capitol Guard?

VOLODYMYR

I am the last.

KELLE

What is your name?

She puts a hand on his shoulder.

KELLE (CONT'D)

I will carry it with me.

VOLODYMYR

I am known as Volodymyr de Malagig Gwashalt-Ze.

Volodymyr's walk-on song plays: "State Anthem of Ukraine."

UKRAINIAN CHORUS (V.O.)

*The glory and freedom of Ukraine
has not yet perished
Luck will still smile on us brother-
Ukrainians
Our enemies will die, as the dew
does in the sunshine
And we, too, brothers, we'll live
happily in our land*

KELLE

It's a strong name. It will be recorded in the annals of Krugan.

VOLODYMYR
May my sacrifice honor my people.

KELLE
It will.

She turns and goes through the door. Shutting it heavily behind her.

Volodymyr turns his back to the door. The Cretiaffs are everywhere now. Dozens of them. They advance on him.

He grips his sword.

The sun dips below the horizon.

The Cretiaffs move closer.

FADE TO BLACK.

The sound of Volodymyr attacking with his longsword. The screams of a dying man.

FADE IN.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - MOMENTS LATER

Kelle steps inside and slams the heavy wooden door behind her. On either side of the door are big windows that are barred on both the inside and out.

Kelle quickly turns and looks out the window. A light blue glow covers the glass surface. She sees the Cretiaffs overtake Volodymyr. She looks away before he is killed.

The inside of the Outpost reaches up to the third level. A spiral staircase goes around the interior wall, with bookcases lining the walls on all three levels.

On the first floor, a door stands in the center of each wall. Near the back wall is an area with no bookshelves, a kitchen area.

In the middle of the room is the Great Tree, which grows from beneath the floor and makes its way through the roof. Only a few of the branches have any leaves. The bark is graying and lifeless. The elements are held out by the same faintly glowing light blue magic seen through the front window. A woman waters the tree.

JEANNE DE MALAGIG GWASHALT-EK is a white woman (*played by Emily Blunt*). Jeanne wears a suit of heavy white plate armor.

Over the armor, she wears the blue and silver of the Capitol Guard. Strapped to her side is a broad sword. Around her neck hangs the lighthouse insignia of the Malagig. Jeanne's walk-on song plays: Enya, "Only Time."

ENYA (V.O.)

*Who can say if your love grows
As your heart chose? Only time
And who can say where the road
goes?
Where the day flows? Only time*

KELLE

Jeanne.

JEANNE

Kelle.

They clearly know each other. And even more clearly don't like each other.

JEANNE (CONT'D)

Don't worry. They can't get inside.

KELLE

You don't think they have ways?

JEANNE

There is a containment spell, among many others that keep us safe.

KELLE

For now.

ALAIN (O.S.)

You two know each other?

KELLE

No.

JEANNE.

No.

The CAMERA quick-pans to see ALAIN DE MALAGIG GWASHALT-SA, a white man (*played by Jason Statham*) who drinks from a magically refilling mug of ale. Alain's walk-on song plays: "Song 2," by Blur.

BLUR (V.O.)

*When I feel heavy metal
Woo-hoo! And I'm pins and I'm
needles
Woo-hoo! Well, I lie and I'm easy*

(MORE)

BLUR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*All of the time but I'm never sure
 why I need you
 Pleased to meet you*

Alain wears chain mail armor that pulses with a faint blue glow. He wears the blue and silver cloak and insignia of the Capitol Guard and Malagig.

He sips from the mug and takes a seat a table close to the tree. Leaning against the table is a long mace, ending in a studded ball of iron.

ALAIN
 Right.

He drinks more, shaking his head. Kelle and Jeanne exchange a look of mistrust.

KELLE
 Who is here?

Jeanne waves her arm around the room. Kelle nods in disappointment.

KELLE (CONT'D)
 What's here?

JEANNE
 Whatever we need.

Jeanne walks towards the shelf filled with artifacts.

JEANNE (CONT'D)
 Whatever you want to eat, as long
 as you don't mind your food tainted
 with magic.

She points to a couple of bowls on the shelf.

JEANNE (CONT'D)
 Whatever you want to drink.

She runs her hand across a series of magical mugs, flasks and jars.

JEANNE (CONT'D)
 Any kind of potions or salves you
 need.

She points towards the doors on the side walls.

JEANNE (CONT'D)
 Magic rooms. They become whatever
 you need. Bedrooms. Baths.
 Infirmary. Whatever.

Jeanne walks back towards the tree.

JEANNE (CONT'D)
 Who knows what else they have? Look
 around.

Kelle does.

ALAIN
 Endless toys, that's what we've
 got. Which'll be fine for the
 little bears. But toys won't help
 against...

Kelle picks up a few of the artifacts and examines them.

FLEK (O.S.)
 May I get you food or beverage?

Kelle whips around with her sword at the ready. FLEK flinches
 away from the weapon. Flek is not human, but isn't that far
 off. Short, slim, white skin, pointed ears, thin fingers.

Flek's walk-on song plays: It's a short Ren faire flute-
 sounding thing that only lasts for four seconds before
 cutting off. Notably, Flek wears no insignia.

Once Kelle sees Flek, she puts her sword away.

KELLE
 I'm famished. Bring me a feast.

FLEK
 Anything specific?

Kelle holds up her insignia. Flek notes it and rushes out the
 door in the back wall.

Kelle peruses the books and scrolls on the first floor.
 Jeanne goes back to watering the tree, mumbling prayers under
 her breath.

ALAIN
 Why are you watering that thing?
 It's clearly dead.

JEANNE
 It'd better not be.

Alain shrugs and goes back to drinking.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - LATER

The front door opens. Everyone turns and looks to see FEATHERLIGHT. Featherlight is a white man (*played by Neil Patrick Harris*). Featherlight's walk-on song plays: "Abracadabra," by Steve Miller Band.

STEVE MILLER BAND (V.O.)

*I see magic in your eyes
I hear the magic in your sighs
Just when I think I'm gonna get
away
I hear those words that you always
say
Abra abra cadabra
I wanna reach out and grab ya*

Featherlight wears no armor, instead wearing layers of brown cloaks that magically flow around his body from time to time. He walks with a thick wooden staff. Around his neck is a leather strap carrying the insignia of the Ogion people, three X's in a triangle arrangement.

Next, YENNIK RICHE steps through the door. Yennik is a Black woman (*played by Regina King*). Yennik's walk-on song plays: "Boss Ass Bitch," by PTAF.

PTAF (V.O.)

*I'm a boss ass bitch, bitch, bitch,
bitch, bitch, bitch, bitch
I'm a boss ass bitch, bitch, bitch,
bitch, bitch, bitch, bitch
I'm a boss ass bitch*

Yennik wears dirt-covered leather armor and a forest green cloak. A bow and a quiver of arrows are strapped to her back and two long knives strapped to her legs. She wears the totem of the Benjen people, an evergreen tree.

Featherlight looks around the room and commits each face to memory. He says nothing and walks toward the door on the right and goes through.

JEANNE

Hello to you, too.

ALAIN

You ever met a friendly Ogion?

JEANNE

Never have.

ALAIN
You never will.

He turns and makes eye contact with Yennik. He smiles. She smiles back.

YENNIK
So it's that kinda party, is it?

ALAIN
It is now.

Kelle looks up to see Yennik then goes back to looking at a large scroll that rests upon a table. A magical quill inscribes words on the scroll. Kelle reads the words intently as they appear.

Flek returns from the kitchen area carrying one bowl of sliced fruit and another filled with some roast fowl. He sets them on a table in the middle of the room.

Kelle sits at the table. She stares at him.

FLEK
Ma'am?

KELLE
Utensils. I'm no barbarian.

Flek nods and rushes back towards the kitchen area. He runs back with a knife and fork and hands them to Kelle.

Flek turns to Yennik.

FLEK
May I get you anything?

YENNIK
No.

Featherlight walks back into the room. Flek turns towards him and freezes in place. He's clearly afraid.

Featherlight grins slyly.

FLEK
Anything I can help you with?

FEATHERLIGHT
Not just yet.

Flek nods and runs away. Kelle sees Featherlight.

KELLE

Any idea what that is?

She points towards the auto-writing scroll. Featherlight steps towards it and takes a closer look.

KELLE (CONT'D)

Anyone else? It's an odd document.

ALAIN

Beyond the magical self-writing?

KELLE

Indeed.

She turns back towards her bowl and takes a bit of fowl.

JEANNE

No good magic surrounds that tome.

ALAIN

Certainly no magic of Malagig or other civilized clans.

FEATHERLIGHT

I've heard tale of it. But I've never seen it.

YENNIK

What is it?

FEATHERLIGHT

I can't speak to what it is, but what it does is chronicle the tale of the Quickening. Specifically THIS Quickening.

Kelle nods. Jeanne scowls.

FEATHERLIGHT (CONT'D)

Chronicles of the previous Quickenings rest among these shelves.

He waves grandly before walking across the room and grabbing a magically refilling ale mug.

YENNIK

This isn't the first Quickening?

JEANNE

It's the fourth.

KELLE
Some say it's the last.

ALAIN
Might as well be.

FEATHERLIGHT
The Quickening leads to a rebirth.

YENNIK
And as the "saviors," we're part of
the rebirth?

ALAIN
Not likely.

FEATHERLIGHT
Sadly no. We shall perish so that
many shall live.

JEANNE
Haven't enough perished?

ALAIN
You cling to the past.

JEANNE
I had joy and love in the past. Now
I have you and the end of the
world.

Alain laughs. He drinks. The silence persists.

YENNIK
What is this place?

JEANNE
Were your studies deficient? How
could that be allowed?

YENNIK
I am a replacement.

KELLE
That's allowed?

FEATHERLIGHT
Probably not.

ALAIN
It's called Krugan's Outplace. It's
the last refuge of humanity. And
we're the saviors.

Everyone who has a mug drinks long.

KELLE

Malagig? Benjen? Ogion? Yukio? None
of us speak the same tongue. How
are we understanding each other?

Featherlight gestures towards the blue energy that covers the
window.

FEATHERLIGHT

Many a magic has been cast on this
structure. It's why this is the
last safe place.

YENNIK

No matter what we say, then, we all
hear the same thing?

Featherlight nods.

ALAIN

I hear words here that I know I
don't know, but somehow I do know
what they mean.

YENNIK

Speak for yourself. Some of us more
fluent with the tongue than others.

She smiles at Alain. He laughs.

ALAIN

I know what you mean.

YENNIK

I know what YOU mean.

Featherlight goes back into the room on the right.

ALAIN

Been a while, Yennik.

YENNIK

Too long.

ALAIN

Fancy seeing you here at the end of
the world and all.

YENNIK

Fancy IS what everyone says about
me.

Alain nods towards the door to the left of the entrance.

ALAIN
You want to?

She smiles.

ALAIN (CONT'D)
For old times sake?

She starts taking off her armor and weapons. She walks towards the door.

Alain stares after her in awe. She turns to look back at him.

YENNIK
You coming?

He grins.

ALAIN
Not yet.

She goes into the room, he rushes after her and slams the door behind him. Jeanne stares after them with disgust.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - LATER

Yennik and Alain walk back into the main room just as JHAI JESTALI steps through the front door. Jhai is an Korean man (*played by Gong Yoo*). Jhai's walk-on song plays: "Bring Da Ruckus," by Wu-Tang Clan.

WU-TANG CLAN (V.O.)
*I wait for one to act up
Now I got him backed up
Gun to his neck now, react what?
And that's one in the chamber
Wu-Tang banger, 36 styles of danger
Bring da motherfuckin' ruckus
Bring da motherfuckin' ruckus
Bring da mother, bring da
motherfuckin' ruckus
Bring da motherfuckin' ruckus*

Jhai wears chain mail armor and a cloak that resembles those of Alain and Jeanne, but is gray in color. Clearly, they belong to the same military, but Mok is of lower rank.

A broadsword rests in a scabbard across his back. The insignia around his neck is that of the Ryneveld, the crude image of a house.

Next, GOR steps inside. Gor is a white man of Austrian ancestry (*played by Arnold Schwarzenegger*). Gor's walk-on song plays: "So Many People," Neurosonic.

NEUROSONIC (V.O.)

*So many faces of so many people are
covered in stupid
And all they wanna do is get in
I know that your parents are
brother and sister
It's idiot season, so let the
Hunting begin'
Let the hunting begin
Let the hunting begin
Let the hunting begin*

Gor needs no armor. Gor needs no shirt or pants. Gor wears a loincloth and cape made of a thick brown fur. He has long blonde hair and carries a combination axe/hammer that most human beings couldn't lift. It glows a faint blue. He wears the insignia of the Belit people, three mountains arranged in a triangle pattern.

Immediately behind Gor is MOK. Mok is a Latino man (*played by John Leguizamo*). Mok's walk-on song plays: "How I Could Just Kill A Man," by Rage Against the Machine.

CYPRESS HILL (V.O.)

*When you're up on the hill, in your
big home
I'm out here, riskin' my dome
Just for a bucket, or a fast Ducat
Just to stay alive, ayyo I gotta
say fuck it
Here is somethin' you can't
understand
How I could just kill a man*

Mok wears a light leather armor. No additional adornments or shiny things visible. His short sword and short knives are sheathed and his throwing stars are painted black. He wears no visible insignia.

The last of the new party is HALLADALE TU-AKARIS, who walks in playing a ukulele-like instrument and smiling. Halladale is a Black man (*played by Lakeith Stanfield*). Halladale's walk-on song plays: "Birds," by Htiekal ft. Git.

HTIEKAL (V.O.)

*Crack of dawn
Beat the phone alarm on alert
Early bird
Get the worm make it your desert*

(MORE)

HTIEKAL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*When it's time to go, go berserk
Put in work*

He wears no armor and is dressed in colorful pants and clothes with a paisley-like pattern. He carries no visible weapons, but proudly wears the larger insignia of the Tuatha people, a crude lyre.

ALAIN
Gor!

Alain grabs a self-filling ale mug and brings it to Gor.

GOR
Cleric!

Gor takes the mug and drinks for a full 30 seconds.

JHAI
Hi. Jhai Jestali.

He frowns towards Jeanne.

JHAI (CONT'D)
Jeanne.

She nods, but otherwise ignores him. She stares out the window.

Mok nods towards Alain.

MOK
Alan.

The humor drains from Alain's face.

ALAIN
This will be the LAST time I
correct you, criminal.

MOK
(grinning)
I'm not a criminal any more. I'm a
savior.

He grins and wanders towards the kitchen. Alain stares after him for a second, then turns back towards Gor, his happiness returns.

ALAIN
Who is your friend?

He nods towards Halladale.

HALLADALE

No man is my friend. Women on the other hand...

Halladale walks over to Yennik, takes her hand and kisses it. She lets him. Alain frowns.

ALAIN

Typical Tuatha. Never remember your proper layer in the pyramid.

HALLADALE

Typical Malagig. How many of your comrades fell outside while you cowered within, I wonder?

Alain snarls. Halladale laughs.

HALLADALE (CONT'D)

You may call me Halladale.

ALAIN

I've got a few things I'd like to call you...

Halladale smiles and strums his instrument. He walks away from Alain.

ALAIN (CONT'D)

How did you join up with this lot?

Halladale flirts with Kelle. She offers him a slice of fruit.

GOR

Met them on the road. Beyond the wall.

ALAIN

Strange group to venture past the wall.

GOR

Had to kill a man.

ALAIN

I know how that one goes.

He looks towards Halladale, who ignores him. The bard eats fruit with Kelle.

JHAI

The road was filled with savage battles.

MOK
But we saw it.

JEANNE
The signal?

Mok nods.

MOK
A blood red scar across the sky.

Beat.

JEANNE
We couldn't see it from the city.

ALAIN
I'm glad I didn't see it.

He takes a long drink.

JEANNE
I wanted to see it. It's my duty.

ALAIN
It's OUR duty. Not like yours and mine, but ALL of ours.

He looks around the room.

ALAIN (CONT'D)
I just hope everyone is ready to do their part.

The silence is heavy.

KELLE
(her mouth full)
It came early.

They all turn to look at her.

YENNIK
What did?

MOK
The signal.

FEATHERLIGHT
According to record, it is 11 months early.

ALAIN
How do you know?

YENNIK

But that means we still have 11
months, right?

No one answers.

GOR

Where's Krugan? Is this not
Krugan's Outpost?

YENNIK

Who is Krugan?

Flek steps into the room. Featherlight stares at him.

JEANNE

A powerful mage.

JHAI

From a time before time.

HALLADALE

The MOST powerful mage in history.

KELLE

Savior of humanity.

ALAIN

Survivor of the Quickening.

MOK

Protector of life.

YENNIK

Sounds like you rehearsed that.

JEANNE

We did. We ALL did.

GOR

Krugan is a myth. Krugan is no more
real than men from the stars.

HALLADALE

Then how do you explain this
Outpost?

Gor nods towards Jeanne and Alain.

GOR

Malagig trickery.

ALAIN
 (with no humor)
 You never were the smartest, were
 you, Gor. I forgot myself.

He turns and walks towards the kitchen.

GOR
 One who forgets himself too often
 becomes but a memory.

Beat.

GOR (CONT'D)
 If he angers Gor.

Alain laughs. It's not a confident laugh.

FLEK
 No--

Everyone turns to look at him, ESPECIALLY Featherlight. Flek
 flinches from the mage's gaze.

FLEK (CONT'D)
 No one has seen Krugan for hundreds
 of years.

ALAIN
 How would you know?

JEANNE
 He lives here.

Flek nods.

HALLADALE
 You knew him?

Flek hesitantly nods. Featherlight's stare grows menacing.

FLEK
 I will remain Krugan's servant for
 life.

YENNIK
 So where is he?

FLEK
 I know not.

Flek rushes through the door in the back wall.

JHAI
Is everyone here?

JEANNE
We are missing two.

GRAYSHADOW (O.S.)
One.

They turn to see GRAYSHADOW, who floats down from the ceiling to stand before them. Grayshadow is a man of Pakistani heritage (*played by Riz Ahmed*). Grayshadow's walk-on song plays: "Mogombo," by Riz MC.

RIZ MC (V.O.)
*Pick a side, do or die
'Cause all we ever do is die
They either bomb us or we suicide
We're the doner meat
Don't you wanna try
Woke up to a war
Why you wanna beef with your own
like?
I keep my beef with the pork
Why you bring a tweet to a
gunfight?*

Grayshadow carries no weapons, he needs them not. His simple brown robes are thin and provide no protection. He wears no visible insignia.

JEANNE
I think this is everyone that's
coming.

JHAI
It can't be.

JEANNE
It is.

She gestures towards the scroll.

ALAIN
(to Grayshadow)
You've been here all this time?

Grayshadow nods.

ALAIN (CONT'D)
Were you going to tell us?

GRAYSHADOW

If you had read the scroll, you'd already know.

KELLE

He's right.

JEANNE

You knew he was here?

Jeanne nods towards Grayshadow. Kelle eats another piece of fruit.

GRAYSHADOW

Are we ready to begin?

Halladale laughs and strums his instrument.

JHAI

But everybody's not here. How can we--

Yennik walks to the window and stares out. She sees large groups of MONSTERS forming outside the cemetery gate.

YENNIK

We have company.

Others peer out the window. A variety of human-like monsters are gathered. Some are hybrids: human and cat, human and dog, human and snake. Others look like demons. A common species are the Kartesi, something between a goblin and an elf.

JEANNE

How are the others going to make it through that?

MOK

Nobody else is coming.

JEANNE

But they must.

They move away from the windows and back into the room.

YENNIK

Won't they just come in and kill us?

GRAYSHADOW

They can't get through the magic. Monsters can't cross into the graveyard.

FEATHERLIGHT

It's not completely foolproof. Some things can get through. And if they have counter-magic, they can weaken or destroy it.

GOR

Then we are wasting time.

YENNIK

Are we supposed to be doing something?

GOR

We should fight monsters.

GRAYSHADOW

No. We have work to do.

JEANNE

How do you know? What is it?

ALAIN

Who died and made you king?

HALLADALE

Literally everyone.

MOK

You guys are gonna grakk this up, aren't you?

GRAYSHADOW

It is my purpose to know such things.

They all turn to stare at him.

FEATHERLIGHT

This man is a Khampa.

Alain, Jeanne, Mok and Gor all ready their weapons. Featherlight smiles in amusement.

GRAYSHADOW

I'd kill you all where you stand if it served my purposes.

YENNIK

And what purposes are those?

GRAYSHADOW

Survival.

ALAIN

I still say we kill him.

Halladale laughs and grabs a loaf of bread from the kitchen. He tears off half the loaf and eats a chunk.

KELLE

Not a single one of you could kill a Khampa.

Gor laughs heartily. He relaxes.

GOR

The man has not lived that I cannot kill.

He heads for the kitchen area to look for meat.

GRAYSHADOW

If I wanted you dead, you'd be dead.

The room is still with tension. The silence is broken by Halladale strumming.

JEANNE

We have work to do. We have to save the world. The future.

Alain laughs. He drinks.

GRAYSHADOW

The Quickening is here. We can waste time or we can fight it.

JHAI

Not this nonsense.

YENNIK

What are you talking about?

JHAI

The Quickening? The end of the world? Nothing but fantasy. Meant to scare us into killing each other.

JEANNE

What do you think all this is?

She gestures at the Outpost itself. He shrugs.

Kelle gets up and walks towards Jhai. She punches him in the nose, drawing blood. He stumbles back and lands on a chair. He's stunned.

KELLE

You're here. You're in. You have no choice. I'm not ready to die. The Quickening is real. And only we can stop it.

Featherlight and Halladale laugh. The others stare at her grimly.

GRAYSHADOW

If that's settled...

He looks towards Jhai. Jhai looks away. Grayshadow scans the room. No dissent.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)

The Quickening is real. The FOURTH Quickening.

YENNIK

How did we survive them all?

GRAYSHADOW

This Outpost. And Krugan's work here. As the Quickening approaches, the things that live in the dark grow in power and rage. They strike out. They kill. They won't stop until the 11 Clans of Humanity are extinct.

GOR

This is why we kill them. It's us or them. Always will be.

GRAYSHADOW

And you and your ilk were quite successful at killing them.

Beat.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)

And you still lost.

YENNIK

Are we the last humans alive?

GRAYSHADOW

No. The monsters have captives. Sacrifices.

He lets the words weight upon them.

MOK

You're lying. I've heard the murmurs.

JEANNE

What are you talking about?

ALAIN

He's having a laugh.

MOK

Nah. I've heard what the monsters are saying.

YENNIK

What is it?

MOK

They call this the FINAL Quickening.

Kelle sits down.

MOK (CONT'D)

If we can't pull off this ceremony, that's it. The monsters have won.

JHAI

This is--

The entire room turns and glares at him.

JHAI (CONT'D)

Okay! Okay!

He throws his hands up in exasperation.

KELLE

Stop stalling, Grayshadow. What do we do?

GRAYSHADOW

The Quickening is a magic based on treachery. The common currency of the realm. The lifeblood of the monsters. The universal constant.

JEANNE

Speak for yourself.

GRAYSHADOW

Even you, Jeanne de Malagig
Gwashalt-Ek. You have been
treacherous. And you have been a
victim of treachery.

Jeanne turns her back on Grayshadow, but she doesn't dispute his claim.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)

The verbal component of the magic that will prevent the Quickening is a revelation of the sins of each of the 11 Clans of Humanity. You must each tell us of a treachery committed against you and a treachery you have committed against others.

Alain laughs.

JHAI

You can't possibly believe all this nonsense.

GRAYSHADOW

Men who speak like you are men that lose wars.

MOK

If you don't believe, why are you here?

JHAI

You barely believe it. It's obvious. We can all tell. Why are you even here.

JEANNE

He believes ENOUGH.

ALAIN

What's the alternative? Give in and die?

JHAI

You see what it's like out there.

YENNIK

But you must have SOME hope that this all means something.

KELLE

You didn't come here to die among
people you hate.

JHAI

I didn't say I... I don't know why
I came here.

ALAIN

Then maybe shut your mouth.

Jhai considers going on, but he realizes they all hate him.

GRAYSHADOW

With Cathbad absent, I'm unsure how
strong our magic will be.

YENNIK

How do we know the Cathbad won't
show up.

FEATHERLIGHT

The scrolls.

They look in his direction.

FEATHERLIGHT (CONT'D)

This one says that the last living
human that arrives is Halladale.
Who is Halladale?

HALLADALE

You know who I am.

Featherlight grins.

KELLE

Check the shelf. There is a history
scroll for each of the clans.

Jeanne walks to the shelf and sees a dozen scrolls. She grabs
the scroll with the insignia of the Cathbad on the exterior,
the outline of what looks like a maple leaf.

She opens the scroll and reads the last lines.

JEANNE

Here it is... Vor-Tal Tu Cathbad,
the last of the Clan was overcome
by the leader of the Kartesi,
Khuilo.

HALLADALE
 (VERY afraid)
 Khuilo.

There is a knock at the door. They all just stare at it. Flek rushes towards the door and reaches for the handle.

ALAIN
 Don't!

Flek ignores Alain and yanks the door open. In walks D'JOHNT, a white man (*played by Jim Gaffigan*). He wears colorful, clean robes and a crown of thorns. Around his neck is the insignia of the Malagig. D'Johnt's walk-on song plays: "Material Girl," by Madonna.

MADONNA (V.O.)
*'Cause we are living in a material
 world
 And I am a material girl
 You know that we are living in a
 material world
 And I am a material girl*

They all stare.

GOR
 Who the grakk are you?

D'JOHNT
 I am your leader.

Halladale laughs.

MOK
 This one thinks he's the king.

JEANNE
 We do not serve this man.

ALAIN
 He's the type of guy we kill.
 That's our duty.

Alain readies his weapon. Jeanne raises a hand to clam him.

D'JOHNT
 All humans serve me.

HALLADALE
 All 11... oops, I mean 10 of us?

He laughs. D'Johnt ignores him.

GOR
Let's kill him.

D'JOHNT
If you provide the proper tribute
to me, your lives will be spared.

JEANNE
By whom? Who do you speak for?

MOK
You can't actually believe that.

KELLE
This man is a fool.

YENNIK
What kind of tribute?

D'JOHNT
Haven't you read the scrolls?

GRAYSHADOW
We were just getting to that.

D'Johnt laughs contemptuously.

D'JOHNT
Pity. Enough of this pointless
discussion. Assimilate or die.

ALAIN
Yeah, you and what army?

D'Johnt steps out of the doorway to reveal that the monsters
outside have GREATLY increased in numbers. Hundreds are
visible and many more are beyond them.

D'JOHNT
This one.

He grins. The humans stare outward at their impending doom.
Silence fills the Outpost.

KELLE
We're to serve YOU? Who do you
serve? Clearly it is no man.

D'JOHNT
I serve no one.

HALLADALE
He serves Khuilo.

D'Johnt flinches.

YENNIK

Who... or what is Khuilo?

GRAYSHADOW

Khuilo is no man.

D'JOHNT

You'll regret this.

ALAIN

Not as much as you will!

He turns and walks out in a huff. Alain draws his weapon and steps to follow. Grayshadow moves with superhuman speed and blocks his way.

GRAYSHADOW

If human kills human on this
land...

Alain shrugs him off and walks away. Jeanne closes the door.

YENNIK

Who was that?

KELLE

A traitor.

ALAIN

A fool.

GRAYSHADOW

He is called the Host.

HALLADALE

Goes by the name of D'Johnt. He's
Malagig.

ALAIN

Bite your tongue!

JEANNE

No, I would know of him if that
were true.

GRAYSHADOW

He IS Malagig. A confederate hiding
in the shadows for many years.

GOR

We should still kill him.

Mok looks out the window.

MOK

He's got a few too many friends, if you ask me.

HALLADALE

No one asked.

GRAYSHADOW

We need not kill him. He is not long for this world.

JHAI

He's joined THEM. We'll never get to him.

HALLADALE

What the Khampa is trying to tell you is that he's not their leader.

Beat.

HALLADALE (CONT'D)

He's to be a sacrifice. And he won't be the first or the last.

YENNIK

What are you talking about?

GRAYSHADOW

Seven plagues will be visited upon us. And each starts with the sacrifice of a human.

JEANNE

We aren't alone then? There are others.

HALLADALE

No. They're already dead.

GOR

Clearly the Host is not a dead man.

HALLADALE

That is a dead man walking.

They all stare at him.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - NIGHT

D'Johnt pulls the door shut behind him and walks toward the group of monsters, who welcome him with open arms. It's a party-like atmosphere. The monsters are armed and ready for battle, but they're drinking ale, eating meat, horsing around, tomfoolery. They're at war, but they know they've already one.

KHUILO (*played by Giancarlo Esposito*) walks to the front of the monsters to meet D'Johnt with a grin. He is Kartesi. Khuilo's walk-on song plays: "Metal Health," by Quiet Riot.

QUIET RIOT (V.O.)

*I'm like a laser
Six-string razor
I got a mouth like an alligator
I want it louder
More power
I'm gonna rock it till it strikes
the hour
Bang your head
Metal health will drive you mad*

He wears a studded armor that looks to be made from the hide of some armored beast. A long thin sword is strapped to his side.

D'JOHNT

Greetings, Khuilo.

Khuilo snarls in return. D'Johnt is a little taken aback.

D'JOHNT (CONT'D)

No knowledge of niceties. Your kind are not of this world.

KHUILO

And your kind are not long for this world.

He laughs. The other monsters join in. Khuilo claps D'Johnt on the back heavily with his clawed hand. D'Johnt nearly falls, but tries to play it off.

KHUILO (CONT'D)

Time to apply some pressure.

Five similarly dressed MAGES approach the front of the army of monsters. One from each of the monster clans present: cat people, dog people, snake people, demons and Kartesi. They are dressed in robes similar to that of Featherlight.

KHUILO (CONT'D)

Start now and don't let up until it falls.

Each of the mages raises a staff and points it at the blue bubble of energy that surrounds the graveyard. Red energy blasts against the blue wall, but the wall holds. For now.

D'Johnt steps forward, his face reflecting the red and blue light from the magic. He grins with dark delight.

D'JOHNT

Yes! Tear it down. And I will finally fulfill my destiny as the ruler of humankind!

Behind him Khuilo and the other monsters join him in laughter. But they're laughing at him, not with him. He doesn't notice.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - DAY

Grayshadow stands with his hand on the Great Tree.

GRAYSHADOW

Kelle Fritas. You are first, please join me.

She gets up and walks to him.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)

Place your hand on the Great Tree.

She does. He removes his hand.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)

We will now commence--

MOK

How do we know she isn't just going to lie?

Kelle shoots him a withering look. He flinches, but he stands his ground.

MOK (CONT'D)

How would anyone even know if she was lying?

KELLE

You want to test me? You have the right to determine the truth using trial by combat. You ready?

He looks away.

KELLE (CONT'D)
As we all thought.

MOK
I still think--

GRAYSHADOW
As the magic grows, the Great Tree
will change. Gradually. As it gets
more power.

YENNIK
And it gets power from confessions?

GRAYSHADOW
Humanity created this magic. It's
prejudices and power comes from us.

KELLE
Let's get this over with.

MOK
(defeated)
Don't believe everything you
hear...

Grayshadow raises his hand to quiet everyone. They comply.

GRAYSHADOW
Kelle Fritas of the Yukio, the
shadow warrior, stalker in the
night, deliverer of vengeance, what
treachery marred your pathway to
Krugan's Outpost?

MOK
(under his breath)
Here we go...

KELLE
I am not just Yukio. I am Yukio-Jo.
The women of Yukio-Jo are not like
the other women of the realm. And
certainly not like the men of Yukio-
Ot.

YENNIK
There's a difference?

MOK
All the difference...

Kelle walks to Mok and stands face-to-face with him.

KELLE

Interrupt me again and the Yukio-Ot
will not be represented at the end
of the world.

Mok stares her in the eye for a moment, then backs down. He
walks to get a drink.

KELLE (CONT'D)

Until recently, Xanth Uragiri
presided over ALL Yukio, men and
women.

She follows Mok.

KELLE (CONT'D)

But Xanth rejected you. Didn't she,
Mok?

He growls and turns his back to her.

KELLE (CONT'D)

The rightful leader of your clan
made a decision and she chose
someone other than you. And that
was too much for your fragile
little brain.

Kelle walks back towards the tree.

KELLE (CONT'D)

Xanth was poisoned. But Yukio-Ot
don't have access to poisons like
those that killed Xanth. You had to
have gotten the poison from a Yukio-
Jo.

MOK

I told you she would spew nothing
but lies.

KELLE

What reason would I have to lie to
YOU? You mean less than nothing..

MOK

Watch your--

Kelle pulls out a long knife and puts it to Mok's throat.

KELLE

It was easy to seduce the answer
from your supplier...

Mok starts to fidget. He won't make eye contact with anyone.

KELLE (CONT'D)

She pleased me before I took her
life. For her betrayal of her clan.

JEANNE

What are you saying?

Kelle turns Mok loose, but she keeps her blade pointed at him.

KELLE

You weren't the original
representative of the Yukio-Ot,
were you?

YENNIK

Wait, what?

JEANNE

Does that weaken the magic?

GRAYSHADOW

It matters not who represents their
people. Only that they are the
last.

HALLADALE

And exactly who was to represent
the Yukio-Ot?

KELLE

Santo Fritas.

Beat.

KELLE (CONT'D)

My brother.

Mok flinches as everyone stares at him.

KELLE (CONT'D)

Killed with the same poison as
Xanth.

Everyone stares at Mok. Especially Kelle. But her face remains motionless. She isn't angry, she's focused.

MOK

My birthright was stolen. I was an outcast in my own clan. I was supposed to be here. But that woman... STOLE it from me.

KELLE

And my brother?

Mok flinches.

MOK

That was an unfortunate... necessity.

She puts her knife to his throat again.

KELLE

You CHOSE Yukio. You weren't oppressed. You regretted your own failed decisions.

MOK

That's--

KELLE

Your lies are no excuse for your sins.

She remains emotionless as she condemns him.

MOK

I demand--

KELLE

If the monsters don't kill you. I will.

Jeanne steps between them.

JEANNE

We can't--

KELLE

But let's finish this first. I won't kill you until you're the last man in the world.

She turns towards Grayshadow.

GRAYSHADOW

Now it is your turn to confess.

Kelle takes a deep breath. She stares at Jeanne as she speaks.

KELLE

When I was a child, I had a friend.
A best friend. MORE than a friend.

Jeanne looks away.

KELLE (CONT'D)

We always talked about joining the
same clan. Malagig. Protect the
realm. Protect each other. Save
humanity. Together.

Kelle walks away from the tree and into the kitchen. She pours herself a glass from a bottle labeled "Malort" and drains it.

KELLE (CONT'D)

The day arrives for initiation. But
by then, I had realized that, the
Malagig were not my people. As much
as she was, they were not. I
couldn't join her and become part
of the institution tearing down the
realm.

Jeanne walks to the window and stares outside.

KELLE (CONT'D)

I asked her to join me. I'd do
anything. Join any clan. She said
"no." I joined Yukio-Jo. To get far
away from Gwashalt and the Malagig.

Kelle pours more Malort and drains it.

YENNIK

Did you ever see her again?

KELLE

Today.

Everyone turns to look at Jeanne. She ignores them. Kelle turns to Grayshadow.

KELLE (CONT'D)

Am I done?

Grayshadow nods. Kelle takes another drink and sits down at the table. She picks at her food.

MOK

Did it work?

He withers from the looks of disgust and anger directed at him.

GRAYSHADOW

It's too soon to say. You'll SEE it when it works.

ALAIN

Then let's move this along. I'd rather go outside and fight the monsters than be here for this.

GRAYSHADOW

We can go no further.

YENNIK

What do you mean?

GRAYSHADOW

We must wait until the Great Tree is ready.

Jhai laughs.

JEANNE

How long will that be?

HALLADALE

(chuckling)

You have to wait for the sign. From the Great Tree.

Grayshadow nods.

ALAIN

I need more to drink.

He gets it.

YENNIK

Now what do we do?

GRAYSHADOW

Whatever you can to pass the time.

JHAI

This does sound like the work of the Ogion.

Jhai looks around to find Featherlight, but doesn't find him. He squints his eyes, suspicious.

ALAIN
Anybody up for a game of Smash?

GOR
I'm always down for Smash.

ALAIN
Of course you are.

Alain claps Gor on the shoulder and most of the people in the room join them at the table.

YENNIK
How do you play Smash?

Alain begins to explain the rules. Jeanne, Kelle, Featherlight and Grayshadow aren't part of the game.

ALAIN
You've NEVER played Smash?

YENNIK
Never heard of it.

GOR
You live a life of boredom.

ALAIN
Let's get this game going. I'm taking ALL your money.

He grins.

YENNIK
How do you play?

GOR
It's called 'Smash.' So you smash.

Yennik and Alain laugh. He starts dealing cards.

ALAIN
If coin still mattered, I'd be taking ALL of yours.

Gor tosses a bag of coins on the table.

GOR
I say we play for them anyway.

Everyone around the table laughs as Alain keeps dealing until everyone has four cards.

Jhai throws down three cards with black hearts on them.

JHAI

Hai!

Gor laughs and throws down three cards with black diamonds on them. Jhai throws up his hands in frustration.

ALAIN

What was that?

Alain stares at Gor suspiciously.

GOR

That was Gor smashing.

Alain reaches out and grabs Gor's wrist. Gor drops what are clearly TWO cards, when he SHOULD only have one left.

ALAIN

Nah, that wasn't smashing. That was something else.

GOR

Are you saying Gor cheats?

ALAIN

You and I both know Gor cheats.
Everybody knows Gor cheats.

Gor shrugs. Then he punches Alain in the nose. Alain leaps on top of him, knocking over chairs. Blood flows from Alain's nose and splashes the floor as they roll around.

GRAYSHADOW

End this foolishness. The Great
Tree!

He waves his hands at the tree and the fighting stops. Greenness has worked it's way up the side of the Great Tree. Leaves grow, vines flourish, greenness shines through. It now covers nearly 10% of the trunk.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)

We must proceed.

Alain stands up, walks into the kitchen and grabs a towel. He pours water on it and cleans the blood from his face.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)

Jeanne de Malagig Gwashalt-Ek, lion
of the storm, master of the watch,
faithful of Lord Malagig, you are
next. In what way have you been
betrayed.

Jeanne chuckles as she straightens her armor, which has been put back on hastily.

JEANNE

If you've been listening, you've already heard.

GRAYSHADOW

We have. But we must hear it in your own words, from your own voice.

Jeanne clears her throat.

JEANNE

Kelle speaks the truth.

Everyone but Kelle turns to look at Jeanne. Alain hides himself in the kitchen area, as far out of view as possible.

JEANNE (CONT'D)

Only she understates it.

Kelle fights off the tears, but only barely.

JEANNE (CONT'D)

We were in love. We were committed to each other.

Mok reacts with disdain.

MOK

You can't do that.

Kelle shoots him a murderous look and Mok looks away.

JEANNE

Regardless of the laws of men, we were committed.

Beat.

JEANNE (CONT'D)

And I broke my commitment. I made a new commitment. Malagig. A husband. A child.

A tear runs down Jeanne's cheek.

JEANNE (CONT'D)

When I broke my commitment, I broke her heart. She asked me to abandon Malagig;

(MORE)

JEANNE (CONT'D)
to abandon the life I always knew I
would live. And I said no.

Jeanne's tears start to flow.

JEANNE (CONT'D)
My father, my faith, my city, my
clan all told me the relationship
was wrong.

Kelle gets up and walks into the kitchen.

JEANNE (CONT'D)
All said our love was forbidden. We
would've been killed.

Kelle pours herself a glass of Malort and swallows it.

JEANNE (CONT'D)
So I married the man I was told to
marry.

Beat.

JEANNE (CONT'D)
And betrayed the one person I
loved.

The room sits in silence with Jeanne's confession.

Kelle looks up and makes eye contact with Jeanne.

GRAYSHADOW
Tell us of when you were betrayed.

JEANNE
I was also betrayed by the person I
loved.

Alain drinks heavily.

JEANNE (CONT'D)
Her name was Francoise.

Jeanne chokes back tears. Alain drinks more.

JEANNE (CONT'D)
She... was killed.

ALAIN
You know that wasn't--

GRAYSHADOW
Silence. You'll have your chance.

He turns to Jeanne.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)
What happened to Francoise?

Jeanne rips her hands away from them and stares out the window. She sobs.

FEATHERLIGHT
Do we have time--

Jeanne whips around and rages at him.

JEANNE
That's enough of this questioning!

Grayshadow is shocked. The rest of the room quiets down.

JEANNE (CONT'D)
You're all so judgmental, but what
have you done? Where's your duty?

She rips off her belt and sword and throws them against the wall.

JEANNE (CONT'D)
Am I the ONLY one who understands
duty and honor!

At first no one answers. Jhai steps up.

JHAI
Who cares! It's all pointless.
We're going to die.

MOK
There's nothing we could do to stop
those things.

ALAIN
There aren't enough of us.

JEANNE
But we have this.

She picks up her scabbard and pulls out her sword, which glows with a light blue magical energy.

HALLADALE
Demon-metal.

YENNIK
I thought that was a myth.

HALLADALE

No, it's very real. I spent time in Redab Sing.

ALAIN

On the wall?

Halladale shakes his head.

HALLADALE

I'm no common warrior. Manning the wall is for the Ryneveld.

JHAI

And that kind of division is why we're all going to die. If any of the other clans spent time at the wall, we'd have fewer monsters.

JEANNE

Cease your bickering. Demon-metal may be our one salvation.

YENNIK

What is it?

MOK

You know almost nothing. How long have you lived in the realm?

YENNIK

The Realm? The institutions that got us to the end of the world?

Yennik stares at Mok.

YENNIK (CONT'D)

Again?

Mok looks away from her stare.

YENNIK (CONT'D)

We survive in the West without your lies and corrupt institutions.

Alain, a little drunker, staggers towards her.

ALAIN

She's a lovely gal.

He tries to put his arm around her, but she shrugs him off. He scoffs and walks away.

MOK

Maybe she's an imposter.

HALLADALE

We don't have time for this.

He steps up to Mok. Mok walks away. Halladale looks to Grayshadow, who nods.

GRAYSHADOW

Demon-metal is stronger and both deals and takes more damage than earthly metals. But it doesn't just hurt demons, it KILLS them.

ALAIN

We can use it to kill ANY of the monsters outside.

Grayshadow nods.

GRAYSHADOW

So goes the legend.

Jeanne flashes her glowing blue sword once more. Then she puts it away and straps it back to her waist.

JEANNE

Who carries demon-metal today?

Alain jingles his glowing chain mail. Gor holds up his hammer, which glows a very faint blue, as if it is only partially made of demon-metal. Featherlight pulls back a flap of his robe to show dozens of glowing blue throwing stars in side.

JEANNE (CONT'D)

Is that all?

She looks around the room, worried. No one else responds.

FLEK (O.S.)

Wait, there's more.

Flek walks through the door to the back room. He comes back a few seconds carrying a bag filled with three short swords that glow with blue magic.

He hands the swords to Halladale, Alain and Kelle. They marvel at the glowing blue swords.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - LATER

Those with new demon-metal weapons examine or practice with them. The inside of the Outpost is the most active it has been.

GRAYSHADOW

The tree has grown.

He gestures towards the Great Tree. Greenness has made it's way further up the side of the tree. Leaves grow, vines flourish, greenness shines through. It's almost one-fifth of a way up the trunk now.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)

Alain de Malagig Gwashalt-Sa, the warrior priest, the heart of the realm, protector of the crown, join me.

Alain chugs an entire mug, waits for it to refill, and drains it again. He sets it on the table and walks towards the tree.

ALAIN

Alright, let's grakk things up!

Mok and Halladale chuckle. The others do not.

Alain puts his hands on the Great Tree.

ALAIN (CONT'D)

So I just, you know, start?

Grayshadow nods.

GRAYSHADOW

Tell us of when you were betrayed.

ALAIN

I know what you're all thinking.

He looks around. They ARE kinda thinking bad things about him.

ALAIN (CONT'D)

But I did not betray Jeanne, my wife.

Everyone turns to stare at Jeanne. She looks away.

ALAIN (CONT'D)

In the face of the many tribulations my wife faced, I never left her side. It was she who abandoned me.

Jeanne starts to cry softly.

ALAIN (CONT'D)

Let's say I didn't take it well.

He grabs the bottle of Malort and drinks straight from it.

ALAIN (CONT'D)

My true love became the bottle. And I gave up on my faith. I believed in nothing and no one. Where once I was lauded for duty...

He reaches up to his neck and yanks the strap holding his Malagig insignia off. He throws it to the floor.

ALAIN (CONT'D)

I didn't care any more. I still don't.

He drinks again from the bottle.

ALAIN (CONT'D)

I don't know why I'm here. I didn't betray some silly human. I betrayed the gods. And I have been and will continue to be punished.

He drinks as much as he can. The others all stare at the Great Tree, but it doesn't change. Jeanne sobs.

MOK

Are we just going to sit around and wait?

JEANNE

(wiping away tears)

It's best that we don't. We need... distractions. We have to stay loose or we'll lose our minds and turn on each other.

HALLADALE

A song?

ALAIN

A game. With drinks.

FEATHERLIGHT

I have the perfect game. Used to
play it at Ogion-Sur-Gwui.

GOR

(to Mok)

What the grakk is Oh-gee-on.

Mok grunts.

KELLE

It's a temple. A city in the
Western jungles. Home of
Featherlight and his clan.

FEATHERLIGHT

The game is called 'Flight of the
Stars'. And Krugan left us a map.

Featherlight grins and gestures to a map on the wall. It is on the leathery dried skin of some large beast. The map is a political of the Realm, with Gwashalt and Krugan's Outpost at the very center. Inside the small circle Gwashalt is the lighthouse insignia of the Malagig.

Kelle walks up to the map and bangs her hand on the Ogion region, a green region to the west of the map, marked with the Ogion insignia of three x's in a triangle arrangement.

KELLE

Ogion.

FEATHERLIGHT

You might want to step away from
the map.

He pulls out several throwing stars made of glowing blue demon-metal.

FEATHERLIGHT (CONT'D)

You wouldn't want to get caught in
the flight path.

He smiles.

FEATHERLIGHT (CONT'D)

The game is simple. Throw the stars
and eliminate the other clans. You
land a star in their territory,
they are eliminated.

Alain steps up and readies the first star.

ALAIN
My house. I go first.

FEATHERLIGHT
Standard rules.

Alain turns towards Gor and smiles. Gor walks away, drinking as he goes.

ALAIN
That's what I thought.

He throws the star and it sticks into the Belit symbol of three mountains in a triangle arrangement that cover the Northernmost part of the map.

GOR
Throwing stars is a child's game.

He walks towards the kitchen.

GOR (CONT'D)
Flek! Get me the meat of a grascle.

FLEK
Yes sir.

He leads Gor towards the kitchen.

ALAIN
And that's how you win.

JHAI
My turn.

Jhai eagerly steps up.

JHAI (CONT'D)
I've won the Ryneveld Cup TWICE.

He holds up two fingers and grins. He turns towards the map and readies his star. Alain snickers.

Jhai throws his star and it lands dead in the center of the Cathbad maple leaf that marks the Eastern forests. He pumps his fists in victory.

FEATHERLIGHT
Why would you take out Cathbad?

ALAIN
Zint!

Jhai throws up his hands. He doesn't get it.

FEATHERLIGHT

There's no Cathbad playing. You're supposed to take out your opponents.

Jhai winces and goes to get a drink while people laugh at him.

Jeanne steps up and throws her star directly into the Southeastern city of Redab Snig, marked by the house insignia of the Ryneveld. Jhai looks back to see it.

JHAI

You've got to be kidding me?

Everyone laughs.

KELLE

Can I throw more than one at once?

Grayshadow nods. Kelle grins. She picks up four stars and shows them to Grayshadow. He nods again.

GRAYSHADOW

One hand, one throw. Those are the only limitations on the game.

Kelle nods and steps up. She throws four stars with her left hand. One lands dead center of the map in Gwashalt. The other three all land in the Yukio region.

The other players erupt in laughter and amazement.

FEATHERLIGHT

Since there are two Malagig, you must choose which leaves the game.

Kelle points at Jeanne.

KELLE

Jeanne.

Jeanne smiles a little, then looks away. No one else sees it as they all marvel at the placement of Kelle's stars.

FEATHERLIGHT

The other three all landed on Yukio.

The laughter returns.

FEATHERLIGHT (CONT'D)

Meaning you took out both Mok AND yourself.

The players go crazy.

Across the room, Jeanne walks towards the doorway to the right. As she opens the door, she looks back at Kelle. Jeanne goes inside and shuts the door behind her.

MOK
Why'd you do that?

Kelle steps up to his face.

KELLE
It was two in the board or two in your face.

MOK
Yeah, but you took yourself out, too?

KELLE
I didn't want to win, just wanted to beat you.

Mok retreats to the relative safety of the kitchen.

The room starts to get rowdy as Halladale steps up for his first turn at Flight of the Stars.

Kelle joins Jeanne in the magic room, slipping through the door while everyone is distracted.

INT. MAGICAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jeanne sits on the edge of the bed, watching Kelle as she comes in. Kelle starts unstrapping and taking off her armor as Jeanne watches.

JEANNE
You did that on purpose?

KELLE
Yes.

She continues to undress.

JEANNE
You couldn't stay away from me a second longer?

Jeanne offers a half-hearted smile. She waits.

Kelle looks up at her.

And kisses her.

They take each others armor off as quickly as they can.

Kelle kisses her way down Jeanne's naked body.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Grayshadow watches from across the room, but he does not join the game.

HALLADALE

The problem everyone has in this game, is they tend to focus on opponents who have already gone and are of no imminent threat.

He throws his star and it hits the three x insignia of the Ogion.

Yennik steps up. She has two stars. She throws them and one misses the map completely, sticking into the wall.

But the other lands smack in the middle of the map, touching Gwashalt.

ALAIN

You've got to be kidding me!

He says it in a way that mocks Jhai. Everyone turns and laughs at him. Jhai drinks more.

Halladale steps up and throws his star. It lands near the border of the Benjen region, but enough inside the border to take out Yennik.

He turns towards Yennik with a grin. She gives him a feeble smile, then Yennik vomits on the floor, much to the disgust of everyone else.

FEATHERLIGHT

I guess we have our winner!

Most of the room cheers for Halladale. Alain and Gor drink in silence, Mok in disgust.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - LATER

Yennik paces back and forth near the Great Tree.

YENNIK

I hate this place.

She waves her hands at her face.

YENNIK (CONT'D)

I can't breath in here. How can you
breath in here.

ALAIN

Calm down. What's crawled into your
armor?

YENNIK

I hate this city. I hate being
inside. It's all stone. Cold. The
air is still. It feels like death.

HALLADALE

It is death.

YENNIK

The Benjen live in forests and
jungles. One tree is not enough.

She puts her hand on the Great Tree.

GRAYSHADOW

Your timing is perfect. Yennik
Riche, wanderer of the greenlands,
daughter of the wolves, slayer of
demons.

Yennik nods to him, impressed by the compliments.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)

Tell us of your act of betrayal.

YENNIK

I... I did nothing.

ALAIN

(light-hearted)

You had to do something, or you
wouldn't be here.

YENNIK

I mean... the thing I did... I
COULD'VE done something.

Yennik stares at the floor.

YENNIK (CONT'D)

I should've done something.

She grabs a mug of ale and drinks.

YENNIK (CONT'D)
But I didn't. I watched it happen.

She takes a sip.

YENNIK (CONT'D)
I was not the original chosen
member of the Benjen.

She stood and watched as the original representative was
killed

Could've stopped it, but the killers were the same people who
sold her family into slavery

GRAYSHADOW
And how were you betrayed?

Yennik takes a deep swallow of ale.

YENNIK
Men and women dressed like them...

She points at Alain.

YENNIK (CONT'D)
Murdered my family. My parents. My
sisters. Both of them. My brother.
My neighbors.

Everyone stares in shock. Yennik stares at Alain. The others
look towards him in more shock.

ALAIN
Don't look at me, I wasn't there.

YENNIK
But you know the men who were.

He can't disagree. He shrugs.

ALAIN
They're dead now.

YENNIK
Especially the ones I killed. With
this knife.

She holds up a blood-stained knife with a carved wooden
handle.

ALAIN
Good for you. They killed your
people?

She nods.

ALAIN (CONT'D)
Grakk them. They took their own
lives.

She puts the knife away.

A supernaturally loud horn blows outside. Everyone goes
silent.

GRAYSHADOW
It has begun.

SUPER: The First Plague

Jeanne and Alain rush to one window. Kelle joins them.
Yennik, Jhai and Mok gather at the other. Grayshadow floats
up to the second level and looks out a window on that level.

Halladale sits at the table and eats the remains of Kelle's
food. Gor stays where he is, drinking from his mug.

Featherlight quietly slips into the door on the left and
disappears inside. A few seconds later the door opens a
crack.

A WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
(whispered)
Gor.

He looks towards the door and sees it is cracked. Everyone
else is preoccupied and doesn't hear. Gor gets up and walks
towards the door.

A WOMAN'S VOICE (CONT'D)
(louder)
Gor.

He pushes the door slightly open. Before him stands Jeanne,
armor and weapons removed. Hair down. Naked, but hidden in
the shadows.

JEANNE
Join me, Gor.

Gor grins and tosses his mug aside. He walks into the room,
shutting the door behind him.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Khuilo stands in the center of the gate to the cemetery, as close to the blue field of magical energy as he can get without touching it. He stands tall and proud, his shiny black armor twinkling in the sun.

KHUILO
I am Khuilo.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Everyone inside is crowded around the windows.

YENNIK
Khuilo?

HALLADALE
He's a spirit. A legend. A story
told to scare children.

JEANNE
He's real.

ALAIN
He's here.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Khuilo grins broadly.

KHUILO
And I am here to deliver your doom.
For now is the Final Quickening.

The monsters roar in approval.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Halladale walks away, but the others stay frozen.

HALLADALE
This is going to be VERY bad.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Khuilo quiets the monsters and turns to address the building.

KHUILO

I'm here to offer you a deal. One most generous.

Some laughs among the monsters.

KHUILO (CONT'D)

If you lay down your weapons, walk quietly outside and surrender to your inevitable fate, your deaths will be quick and merciful.

Jeanne opens the door and steps outside. Khuilo quiets the monsters. She takes a few hesitant steps forward. She clears her throat.

JEANNE

And what if we say no?

Khuilo assumes this is a joke. He laughs and looks around at the monsters, who don't laugh along. D'Johnt looks on with glee.

KHUILO

You jest at such a time?

She shakes her head.

JEANNE

No.

The humor leaves Khuilo's face.

JEANNE (CONT'D)

If we refuse, what happens?

D'Johnt is baffled that she had the temerity to ask.

KHUILO

(contained rage)

If you refuse, you will suffer in many, many ways. For infinity.

The monsters like this and grin and growl and move closer. One accidentally touches the energy shield and he is shocked. He backs away in significant pain. The other monsters laugh at him.

Jeanne clears her throat. Khuilo quiets the monsters down.

JEANNE

No.

Khuilo snarls.

KHUILO

Attack!

A row of MONSTER ARCHERS steps forward and shoots a barrage towards them.

Jeanne doesn't flinch.

The arrows hit the energy field and bounce off.

KHUILO (CONT'D)

Attack!

A group of MONSTER JAVELIN THROWERS step forward and throw their weapons against the energy field. A few of them start to penetrate the magic, but are repelled. The others bounce off harmlessly.

Khuilo holds up a hand to halt further attacks. D'Johnt frowns.

Jeanne smiles.

Then she turns and walks back inside confidently.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Jeanne slams the door behind her.

JEANNE

That was a fiasco.

GRAYSHADOW

The magic held. It continues to hold.

YENNIK

Look!

She points out the window.

Several monsters walk Volodymyr, who is in chains, up to Khuilo. Jeanne gasps.

KELLE

Volodymyr.

ALAIN

You know him?

KELLE

I carry his name. I thought him already dead.

HALLADALE
He IS already dead.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Volodymyr has been stripped down to his underclothes. He is covered in scratches and bites and blood and dirt.

KHUILO
Last chance humans. If the first
plague comes, the last plague
comes.

No further response comes from the humans.

KHUILO (CONT'D)
Nothing? Weakness and fear are to
be expected. Proceed.

Four of the Monster Javelin Throwers step forward, holding their weapons.

KHUILO (CONT'D)
The first sacrifice.

He waves his hand and the monsters take turns stabbing Volodymyr. He screams as he dies this time. The camera cuts away, ashamed to see the violence.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Yennik continues to look out the window. The others have moved away. Featherlight is back.

ALAIN
How did you know...?

KELLE
Volodymyr. I only met him on my
journey.

YENNIK
Someone's coming.

Several people join her at the window again.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

D'Johnt walks up to Khuilo, getting aggressively close. The monster stares at him with bared, sharp teeth until D'Johnt takes a step back.

D'JOHNT
I'd have words, Kartesi.

KHUILO
What is this tone, human? I like it
not.

D'JOHNT
You think I care--

Khuilo slaps D'Johnt across the face, his sharp fingernails drawing blood. D'Johnt falls to the ground in shock. The monsters laugh.

KHUILO
Put him in chains, I need him not
until later.

Several CAT PEOPLE grab D'Johnt. He struggles.

D'JOHNT
What is the meaning--

One of the Cat People punches him in the face. D'Johnt's bloody mouth hangs open in fear and shock. The other Cat People put D'Johnt in chains and carries him away.

KHUILO
Let's begin.

Several of the Monster Mages step forward. They cast their red magic blasts towards the ground for a few seconds, then they stop. They go back to blasting the wall.

Krugan and the monsters clear away the space in front of the gate.

A few cockroaches and other bugs start to come from behind the monsters. They grow like a river until there are thousands upon thousands of bugs. As they come, large rats join the flood. There are so many that the monsters move further and further away.

When the roaches hit the magical barrier, though, they are disintegrated. They burn up as they go through it. A few start to crawl up the side of the barrier and burn up as they climb.

The rats fare little better. The smaller ones burn up when they hit the barrier. The larger ones are ejected with force, flying back towards the river of bugs and rodents or flying towards. But a few rats make it through the barrier.

Khuilo grins.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Halladale walks to the front door and opens it.

HALLADALE

I got this.

He goes out and shuts the door behind him. No one follows.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Halladale walks down the path as close to the magical barrier as he dares. He watches as the bugs burn up and the rats struggle to get through.

Two rats make it through the barrier unharmed. Then another. The rest burn up or don't make it through.

The first rat approaches Halladale. He easily sidesteps it and grabs it by the tail. He picks it up and whirls it in a circle and throws it back towards the barrier. It passes through without slowing down and hits a Cat Person in the face. Halladale smiles.

Halladale grabs the second rat and whirls it again. He tosses it through the barrier and it smacks the chained D'Johnt in the bare, bloody chest. D'Johnt screams. Khuilo laughs.

Meanwhile, Halladale grabs the last rat. He twirls it around and throws it at Khuilo. It hits the monster in the face.

Halladale laughs and heads back inside.

Khuilo snarls.

Something brushes against his leg. He looks down and sees a Cretiaff. The bear brushes past him and through the magical energy with no problem.

Khuilo grins.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Alain and Kelle greet Halladale at the door, clapping him on the shoulders in celebration. Halladale is pleased with himself.

ALAIN

Dude that was crazy!

HALLADALE

Not if you understand magic well enough.

YENNIK

But won't he be angry at you?

ALAIN

You'll be tortured.

HALLADALE

If he can get to me, we're all dead anyway.

Yennik shrugs.

YENNIK

If the plagues are going to be that simple. We'll survive.

GRAYSHADOW

That was not the plague.

ALAIN

Rats weren't the plague?

JEANNE

What do you mean?

GRAYSHADOW

They were a test.

MOK

A test of what?

HALLADALE

Our defenses.

YENNIK

Something's coming.

Kelle walks back to the window and looks out. Outside, a Cretiaff appears at the entrance to the graveyard.

Then another. And another. And another.

They all come.

KELLE

Grakk!

YENNIK

What?

KELLE

The magic only keeps out living things, right?

FEATHERLIGHT

That is correct.

KELLE

Then get ready to fight.

JHAI

Why? They're clearly, what? Little bears?

KELLE

I fought them on the way in. They aren't alive. Magical automatons.

ALAIN

You've GOT to be kidding.

KELLE

Have you ever met a jester who was Yukio?

Alain nods his head.

KELLE (CONT'D)

Then get ready to fight.

ALAIN

Let's keep them outside.

GRAYSHADOW

That is advisable. No way to know what magics have been placed on the Cretiaffs.

YENNIK

That's what they are called.

GRAYSHADOW

They have been known by several names. This is but the latest.

ALAIN

Let's go.

He opens the door and walks outside. The others follow. Except for Featherlight, who hangs back. Halladale is last at the door. He notices Featherlight isn't following.

HALLADALE

You joining us?

Beat.

HALLADALE (CONT'D)
 In defending the last human lives
 against the Monster Apocalypse?

Featherlight waves him off.

FEATHERLIGHT
 I am useless in battle. My talents
 are better used here.

He waves his hands around the building.

FEATHERLIGHT (CONT'D)
 Bolstering the magical protections
 of the Outpost.

HALLADALE
 That's what you're here to do?

Featherlight nods and starts casting blue energy from his hands directly at the windows. His blue energy surges into the field already protecting the building.

Halladale looks at Featherlight suspiciously. He nods and heads outside.

Once the door shuts behind Halladale, Featherlight stops casting his spell.

FEATHERLIGHT
 I thought he'd never leave.

He walks into the kitchen and pours a glass of Malort and drinks it.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Dozens of Cretiaffs walk through the energy field without being slowed down. Meanwhile, other monsters attack by shooting arrows and throwing spears at the field, but they still get blocked and fall to the ground. A few make it through only to immediately fall just inside the barrier.

Khuilo gestures for one of the monsters to reach through the barrier and grab a spear that is only inches away. The monster pushes its hand through the barrier, but the magic pushes back.

Khuilo gestures for him to try again. The monster does and is able to get its hand through this time.

It grabs at the spear, but as it does, every part of its arm and hand inside the barrier burns with flames. The monster yanks its arm back and puts out the fire. Khuilo nods.

Alain, Jeanne, Jhai and Kelle are the first to reach the Cretiaffs. They immediately hacking and slashing, easily taking out the bears.

Jhai trips over one of the broken Cretiaffs and falls face-forward on the ground. He looks up and is face-to-face with a Cretiaff.

JHAI

Grakk!

The bear lunges for him and bites him on the hand. He screams. Alain smashes the Cretiaff's head into pieces. Jhai nods a thanks as he gets up. Another Cretiaff comes at him, but he easily takes it out.

A few more kills and the Cretiaffs are all down.

JEANNE

Let's get back inside.

ALAIN

Quickly.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Inside the Outpost, Featherlight looks around for Flek, but can't find him. He checks the side door opposite the one with Gor's body behind it. He checks the back door. No Flek.

He goes into the room where Gor's body is and closes the door behind him.

Flek cracks open the back door and watches Featherlight go into the magic room.

Seconds later, he hears that door begin to open. He keeps his door shut just enough to watch Gor walk back out of the room, but not Featherlight.

Gor (who is really Featherlight) rushes outside to join the battle. Flek comes out of the back room with a smile on his face. He goes into the magical room and sees Gor's body.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - NIGHT

The fight is over and everyone recovers inside. Flek tends to Jhai's wound.

JEANNE

How much time do we have until the next plague? Do we have sufficient time to rest and repair.

GRAYSHADOW

There is not set time. Much as we humans have a choice in here, the creatures outside have their own choices.

ALAIN

Then let's move things along.

Grayshadow examines the Great Tree. It has clearly grown.

GRAYSHADOW

Jhai Jestali!

JHAI

No.

GRAYSHADOW

It is your turn. Jhai Jestali, salt of the earth, defender of freedom and justice, brother and comrade, step forward.

Jhai flinches when Grayshadow says "brother."

JHAI

I won't do it.

GRAYSHADOW

You have no choice, the fate of humanity is in the balance.

JHAI

Who cares? We deserve what comes to us.

Alain pulls a knife and rushes at Jhai, who tries to get away. Alain grabs him by the hair and puts the knife to his neck.

ALAIN

I don't care what you say or what you did, you'll participate in this ceremony or you die NOT trying.

Alain pushes the knife deeper and a trickle of blood leaks from the wound.

JHAI

Fine!

Alain pulls the knife away from Jhai's neck and pushes him away.

JHAI (CONT'D)

I killed my brother.

The room stares in silence.

JHAI (CONT'D)

He slept with my wife.

Alain shrugs. The others aren't so forgiving.

JHAI (CONT'D)

I killed him. She fled. I'm here.

JEANNE

Did you ever see them together?

JHAI

No. I didn't need to. I saw red.

Beat.

KELLE

Sounds a bit more like you were the betrayer twice.

Some laughter.

Jhai yells and walks away.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - LATER

Grayshadow examines the Great Tree. He frowns. He expected more growth. There's some, but not as much as he hoped.

GRAYSHADOW

Gor, slayer of men, mover of mountains, shadow across the moon, it is your turn. Step up to the tree.

Gor (who is actually Featherlight) walks over and puts his hands on the tree.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)

Tell us of your betrayal.

GOR (FEATHERLIGHT)
I'm here to kill monsters and chew
kaku root, and I'm all out of kaku
root.

Grayshadow raises an eyebrow and stares at Gor.

GRAYSHADOW
That answer will not suffice.

GOR (FEATHERLIGHT)
My betrayal? I... uh... I killed a
man beyond the wall to the South.

They all wait for more. It doesn't come.

GRAYSHADOW
Tell us more.

GOR (FEATHERLIGHT)
That's all I got.

Grayshadow is disappointed AND suspicious.

ALAIN
What else can we do? The boredom
will kill me before the monsters
do.

Grayshadow continues to stare at Gor (Featherlight) with a
raised eyebrow. Gor (Featherlight) looks away.

GRAYSHADOW
I have an idea...

He walks across the room and goes up the staircase to the
second level. Grayshadow scans the books on the shelf until
he sees the one he wants. He pulls it from the shelf and goes
back downstairs.

He sets the heavy book on the table with a thud. The cover
reads: "The Great Book of Questions and Answers."

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)
The game is called "One and Done."

Gor/Featherlight flinches, but tries to hide it.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)
You want to get out of the game as
fast as you can. You get out by
simply answering a single question.

YENNIK

That seems easy enough.

GRAYSHADOW

You have to keep answering questions until you get out of the game. Whoever finishes last owes the winners a favor of some sort.

Alain claps his hands.

ALAIN

This is gonna be grakking kaku. Grakking kaku, indeed.

GRAYSHADOW

As you are so eager, Alain, you can go first.

Alain holds up a mug, grins and takes a big gulp. He doesn't wipe the foam from his face.

ALAIN

I AM smarter than I look.

Alain grins again. Scattered laughs, including Yennik (but not Jeanne or Kelle).

GRAYSHADOW

What is the largest city in the realm?

Alain laughs. It's easy.

ALAIN

Redab Snig.

GRAYSHADOW

Correct! You are first out.

Scattered applause.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)

Jhai Jestali...

JHAI

Let's get this over with.

GRAYSHADOW

What is the insignia of Mok's clan, the Yukio-Ot?

JHAI

Ha! Trick question, the Yukio SHARE
the same insignia, regardless of
their bits.

GRAYSHADOW

That is also correct.

Grayshadow looks around the room as if he's deciding who is
next, steadfastly NOT looking at Gor.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)

Gor...

Gor (Featherlight) is shocked.

GOR

I don't like games.

Alain laughs.

ALAIN

Since when? Go on, he's having a
laugh.

GRAYSHADOW

Which clan wears no insignia?

Grayshadow smiles subtly. Gor is clueless. Jhai laughs.

JHAI

You Belit are particularly dense
aren't you.

Gor (Featherlight) doesn't react. Alain frowns.

ALAIN

You feeling ill, Gor? I've seen you
kill men for less.

Gor (Featherlight) drinks ale.

GRAYSHADOW

Your answer?

Gor (Featherlight) grunts.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)

Next question...

HALLADALE

We rarely see the answer right
before our eyes.

Alain drinks of his ale, but keeps an eye on Gor.

GOR

I quit. Gor needs not your petty victories.

Grayshadow and Alain exchange a look of suspicion as Gor storms towards the kitchen to look for food.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - LATER

Grayshadow stands next to the Great Tree.

GRAYSHADOW

Mok, mover in the shadows, scaler of towers, marauder and footpad, the Great Tree calls for you.

He waves his hand for Mok to come on over.

MOK

Do I have to? You already heard the worst...

GRAYSHADOW

Do you want to live? Do you want be the cause of the downfall of humanity?

Mok considers it for a second, but caves. He walks to the Great Tree and puts his hands upon it.

MOK

Well... you already heard what SHE said...

He nods towards Kelle.

ALAIN

Say it or I'm going to break your teeth.

MOK

I... killed Kelle's brother.

Kelle spits in his direction.

ALAIN

Good. I'm already tired.

GRAYSHADOW

Now tell us of how you were betrayed.

Mok clears his throat. Grayshadow walks across the room to grab a glass of Malort.

MOK
You ever hear of the eye of the
Black Dragon?

They have and are immediately impressed. Jeanne lightly gasps. Even Kelle looks up. Mok smiles

MOK (CONT'D)
It was mine.

KELLE
No grakking way!

ALAIN
Now this story I gotta hear.

HALLADALE
I saw it once...

Mok looks up at him, but he doesn't continue.

YENNIK
What happened?

MOK
The old saying is true... a Yukio
can never be a friend nor have a
friend...

He goes into the story, while the CAMERA shifts focus to Gor (Featherlight). He hovers a bit, seeing if anyone watches him. Once they have moved off on another conversation tangent and no one is paying him any notice, he slips back into the room where the real Gor's body remains.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - LATER

Grayshadow returns to the Great Tree.

GRAYSHADOW
Halladale Tu-Akaris, chronicler of
lore of the realm, balladeer and
strummer, walker of the hidden
path, you are summoned.

Halladale approaches the tree.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)
How were you betrayed.

Halladale puts his hands on the tree.

Featherlight walks back into the room. Nobody notices.

HALLADALE

Uh... I wasn't the chosen of
Tuatha.

KELLE

There's an echo in this Outpost.

HALLADALE

I was his body guard. I wasn't
ready to die yet.

Beat.

HALLADALE (CONT'D)

And here I am. As for being
betrayed, I--

A supernaturally loud horn blows outside. Everyone goes
silent.

MOK

Here we go again.

They all move towards the windows, weapons in hand. The look
out to see:

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

SUPER: The Second Plague

The monsters bring out another barely-clothed CAPITOL GUARD,
bruised and bloody.

KHUILO

The second sacrifice.

He waves his hand and the monsters stab the guard. The CAMERA
cuts away from his screams as Khuilo steps forward with a
massive grin.

KHUILO (CONT'D)

Summon the Vredki.

The Monster Mages stop their attack on the wall and step in
front of the gate, facing AWAY from the Outpost. The monsters
part in front of them, leaving a mostly-grassy patch of earth
clear.

The Mages blast red pulses of energy at the grass. After 10 seconds, they stop and go back to attacking the barrier.

At first, nothing happens on the patch of grass. But Khuilo stares anyway. The grin never leaves his face.

A pale white hand emerges from the ground. Then a second. A genderless white-skinned humanoid emerges from the ground. Then another. And a third. These are the VREDKI.

The Vredki walk on to "Party Time," by 45 Grave.

45 GRAVE (V.O.)

*Do you wanna party
It's party time
We gotta party
It's party time
Do you wanna party?
It's party time
We gotta party!
It's party time*

The Vredki above ground try to push through the energy barrier, but they can't get through. They push forward somewhat, though. If someone were nearby, the Vredki could grab them.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Kelle looks stares out the window.

KELLE

Grayshadow. What am I seeing?

Grayshadow steps towards the window.

GRAYSHADOW

Vredki.

YENNIK

What?

GRAYSHADOW

They WERE human. Once. They were corrupted.

ALAIN

Dead? Undead?

GRAYSHADOW

Somewhere in between.

JEANNE

What does that mean?

GRAYSHADOW

They are connected to hell through
the demons.

Jeanne rolls her eyes.

JEANNE

What does it mean for the magic
shield.

GRAYSHADOW

I was wondering that myself.

Jeanne is scared.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

The ground of the graveyard ripples in several places. It'd be difficult to count how many Vredki are burrowing beneath the ground, INSIDE the barrier.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Jeanne runs for the door.

JEANNE

We have to get them. Quickly.

ALAIN

Be careful. Their touch burns.

Jeanne nods and runs out the door. The others follow.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

The above-ground Vredki continue pushing at the energy barrier without success, but without getting expelled.

Alain, Kelle and Halladale run towards the Vredki without hesitation. Alain lops off the hand of one of the Vredki and it falls to the ground inside the barrier. The Vredki pulls back the stump briefly, but pushes forward again, going after Alain.

Kelle takes the head off the second Vredki. Halladale walks up to the third and carefully stabs it in the side of the head, killing its brain. Alain catches on and chops off the head off the other Vredki.

A Vredki hand emerges from the ground and grabs Halladale's bare ankle. Halladale screams as his flesh begins to burn and smoke at the creature's touch.

Kelle quickly slices off the hand that grabs Halladale. The hand falls to the ground dead. Halladale buries his knife in the head of the Vredki as it slowly emerges from the ground.

HALLADALE

Thanks.

KELLE

Don't mention it.

Another half dozen Vredki slowly emerge from the ground, between Alain, Kelle and Halladale and the Outpost. The three warriors dive in and start taking out the Vredki. The other humans from inside help them and the Vredki are take out in quick succession.

They wait to make sure no others are coming.

JEANNE

I think that's it.

GRAYSHADOW

It is. But the plagues are growing in strength.

KELLE

If they find a way through the barrier...

GRAYSHADOW

Let's get back inside and keep the ceremony going...

They head inside, keeping an eye on Khuilo, who keeps an eye on them.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - LATER

No one is wounded other than Halladale, who walks normally despite his burned ankle. Grayshadow walks over to the Great Tree.

GRAYSHADOW

It is now my turn.

He puts his hands on the tree.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)
I am Grayshadow, last of the
Khampa, arbiter and executioner,
warrior with no equal and I am your
last hope.

Alain laughs.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)
Krugan was the source of both of my
betrayals.

A few gasps.

GRAYSHADOW (CONT'D)
Krugan refused to save Darkshadow,
when I was a youth--

ALAIN
Grakking kaku, if I hear another
grakking story about how you killed
my teacher or whatever, I'm going
to kill everyone here.

GRAYSHADOW
I killed Krugan.

ALAIN
You win.

GRAYSHADOW
I care only about saving the lives
of ALL humanity. And I'd kill each
of you if it were necessary.

YENNIK
So YOU are why I'm here? Part of
this?

She waves her arms around at the Outpost. She's angry, but
not excessively so.

GRAYSHADOW
If I hadn't done my duty, you would
already be dead.

YENNIK
How many others have you killed?

GRAYSHADOW
The numbers are irrelevant.

YENNIK

No, they aren't. How many? One?
Dozens? Hundreds?

GRAYSHADOW

Those that got in the way of saving
humanity were eliminated.

A supernaturally loud horn blows outside. Everyone goes silent.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - LATER

SUPER: The Third Plague

The monsters carry out a woman who is dressed in the colors of the Malagig, but she wears no armor. Her hair is intricately woven and she wears make-up. She is regal and offended by the touch of the monsters. She is SEN. SLIGA and is in her 60s.

Khuilo stares at the Outpost with a grin.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Kelle turns away from the window and toward Jeanne.

KELLE

What now?

JEANNE

That's Sen. Sliga. Of the Cathbad.

MOK

I thought there were none left.

ALAIN

There aren't.

The room goes silent.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Khuilo holds his hand up.

KHUILO

The third sacrifice.

He drops it.

The monsters stab the senator to death.

YENNIK
Should we wait inside?

JEANNE
No, let's get out ahead of this
one.

Yennik nods and pulls her bow and nocks an arrow. They walk outside.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

All of the humans goes outside this time, even Featherlight.

A walk-on song plays: "Bela Lugosi's Dead," by Bauhaus.

BAUHAUS (V.O.)
*The virginal brides file past his
tomb
Strewn with time's dead flowers
Bereft in deathly bloom
Alone in a darkened room
The count
Bela Lugosi's dead*

Nothing happens.

JEANNE
What's happening?

ALAIN
You can't feel it?

Jeanne closes her eyes and concentrates. After a few seconds she frowns and opens her eyes.

JEANNE
I can.

GRAYSHADOW
Is it?

ALAIN
Be alert.

JEANNE
The unliving are here.

JHAI
Spirits?

ALAIN

They could be anywhere. If you have demon-metal, this is when you'll need it.

A SPIRIT flies past Alain. He turns to swing at it, but misses. It was a Capitol Guard in life.

Another flies by. And another and another. The graveyard swarms with them.

The humans swing weapons and swing them well, but they can't hurt the Spirits, all of whom were Capitol Guards.

JEANNE

We can't hurt them. Let's go inside.

One of the Spirits hovers above Yennik. She stares up as if it's hypnotizing her. She stops fighting and stands and stares at it.

GRAYSHADOW

Help Yennik! Or we'll lose her.

Jeanne and Kelle grab Yennik and pull her away from the Spirit. They run back inside and slam the door.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Yennik stumbles into the room, clearly her mind is still in a fog.

GRAYSHADOW

Keep an eye on her.

ALAIN

On who? Who are you?

Grayshadow stares at Alain.

HALLADALE

Are we sure the Spirits can't come inside?

GRAYSHADOW

Who said anything about Spirits?

The humans stare at each other in mistrust. The CAMERA scans back to show that Spirits hover above each Alain, Jeanne, Mok and Grayshadow.

Halladale slips behind them towards the kitchen area and starts rummaging through jars and bottles.

MOK

It's him. He's the one!

He points towards Grayshadow.

GRAYSHADOW

No, it is YOU!

Grayshadow stabs at Mok with a demon-metal sword, but Mok dodges.

Alain, Jeanne and Mok surround Grayshadow. All are armed with demon-metal.

Halladale finds what he's looking for. A jar filled with some sort of dried reddish weed, crumbled into a near powder. He turns to run towards them.

Grayshadow lunges at Jeanne. His demon-metal partially pierces her plate mail and burying itself in her stomach.

Jeanne stabs back, getting him in the neck. Alain stabs Grayshadow in one side while Mok stab him in the other.

Grayshadow slumps to the floor as Halladale returns with handfuls of the red weed.

He quickly throws partial handfuls on each of the living humans. And on himself. And on the now-dead corpse of Grayshadow.

The Spirits fly away from the red weed. Through the windows and walls. The humans come out of the daze the spirits put them in.

Alain leaps towards Jeanne and looks at her wound.

ALAIN

Jhai, help me carry her! Now!

Despite his own wound, Jhai helps.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Alain and Jhai burst through the doorway carrying Jeanne. She continues to bleed as they carry her into the magical room opposite the one where Gor's corpse lies.

Once the others are inside, they slam the door behind them. Yennik and Kelle go to the windows to keep an eye out.

KELLE
We have to finish the ceremony.

HALLADALE
Before we're all dead.

YENNIK
Who hasn't done their part of the ceremony?

FEATHERLIGHT
The Cathbad.

Heads nod.

KELLE
Belit?

She looks around the room.

KELLE (CONT'D)
Where's Gor?

INT. MAGICAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jhai helps Alain bring Jeanne into the magical room and they lay her on the bed. Alain starts to strip off her armor. Jhai reaches to help.

ALAIN
Fly, you zint!

Jhai runs from the room, slamming the door behind him.

ALAIN (CONT'D)
Where is your wound?

JEANNE
It's not bad. The plate mostly held.

ALAIN
I asked WHERE your wound was, but I should've just followed the trail of blood.

She laughs. It hurts. He starts to help her take the plate armor off.

JEANNE
What are you doing?

She smiles.

ALAIN
Tending to your wounds.

JEANNE
Wounds?

He kisses her. She moans in response. Despite her love for Kelle, she's VERY attracted to Alain. At least physically.

He takes turns carefully removing pieces of her armor and laying a serious of sensuous kisses upon the parts of her body he uncovers. She moans at each one.

At last she's down to her undergarments.

He pulls them aside and goes down on her.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - LATER

A supernaturally loud horn blows outside.

INT. MAGICAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alain lifts his head from between Jeanne's naked legs

ALAIN
Fuck.

JEANNE
Fuck.

They get up and start putting on their armor.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - MOMENTS LATER

SUPER: The Fourth Plague

Khuilo holds his hand up.

KHUILO
The fourth sacrifice.

The monsters bring out a nearly-naked human prisoner, bruised and bloody, MAYOR FERRIN.

MAYOR FERRIN
Hel--

One of the monsters smacks him across the face and he quiets down.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Jeanne stands up when she recognizes the Mayor.

JEANNE
It's Mayor Ferrin.

FLEK
Grakk that guy.

Flek exits through the back door.

JHAI
What was THAT about?

Alain chuckles.

ALAIN
He voted for the other guy.

JEANNE
Who cares. Your duty calls.

She nods towards the window and gives him a look of shame.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Khuilo holds up his hand.

KHUILO
The fourth sacrifice.

He drops his hand and the monsters stab the mayor to death.

KHUILO (CONT'D)
Go forth. That may have been
enough.

The first of the MONSTER ARCHERS steps up to the energy field and pushes through. As it moves into the barrier and pushes through for one step. Another. Then the barrier stops it. It is able to lift its bow and aim it towards the Outpost.

KHUILO (CONT'D)
Let fly.

The Monster Archer shots its arrow at the Outpost. It flies forward and sticks into the front door.

Khuilo grins.

KHUILO (CONT'D)
Let them feel your fire.

Five more archers step up and push their way through the energy barrier, armed with flaming arrows.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Kelle rushes for the front door.

KELLE

They're gonna burn us down!

ALAIN

We've gotta take them out!

They follow Kelle outside.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

The archers prepare to fire while "Wargasm," by L7, plays.

L7 (V.O.)

*Wargasm, wargasm, one, two, three
Smutty bloody pictures, ecstasy
Blue balls waiting impatiently
From Alcatraz to Lady Liberty
Body bags and dropping bombs
The Pentagon knows how to turn us
on*

The humans rush toward the Monster Archers as the first arrows fly. The initial wave, affected by the force of the barrier, misses anything of value.

Kelle stands near the front of the Outpost and lets fly her own arrow. It lands true between a Monster Archer's eyes, instantly killing the creature.

Another monster struggles to reach through the barrier and grabs the bow the monster dropped. He nocks another flaming arrow and lets fly. This one hits the front door of the building. Yennik yanks the arrow from the door and puts out the fire.

KELLE

You'll have to get close. Get the bows.

JHAI

They'll kill us if we get closer.

Kelle fires another arrow and takes out another Monster Archer.

KELLE

Nah, I got 'em.

ALAIN

(to Jhai)

Move or I'll kill you myself.

Alain smacks him across the back of the head with an open palm. Jhai rubs it with his hand as he walks towards the barrier. The others follow, except for Kelle. She stands before the front door and readies her bow.

She lets fly with two arrows and takes down two of the Archers. Monsters reach through the barrier to grab the bows and pull them back.

KELLE

Stop them!

Jhai scrambles towards the closest bow. He grabs it, but the monster grabs it at the same time. They play tug of war, but the barrier helps Jhai and he's able to wrest the bow away. The other monster pulls back the bow and readies it with another flaming arrow.

Another monster lets fly a flaming arrow and it narrowly misses and bounces off the wall of the outpost. Kelle lands an arrow between the monster's eyes.

The humans reach the barrier just as the Monster Archers let fly with another barrage. Two of them miss completely, but the third arrow hits Jhai in the arm.

Alain scrambles for the bows of the dead monsters and tosses them out of reach. Jeanne rams her blade into the next Archer and Halladale quickly grabs the bow. He breaks it and the other bows the humans have secured.

Alain stabs upward and takes out the fifth Archer. The last Archer fires and the arrow lands in Yennik's thigh. Jeanne and Alain both stab it and Halladale rips away the last bow.

JEANNE

That's it! Get inside!

Kelle rushes forward and helps Yennik. Alain and Jeanne push the bleeding Jhai towards the doorway.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone sits or lies on whatever is available. They're dirty, bloody and breathing heavy.

A supernaturally loud horn blows outside. Everyone goes silent.

ALAIN

Already?

He and several others move towards the windows again.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

SUPER: The Fifth Plague

The monsters step into the gate carrying another man in nothing but his underclothes. He's bloody, bruised and dirty.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Yennik stares out the window.

YENNIK

Who is it?

JEANNE

No idea.

YENNIK

Anyone else?

JHAI

I know.

JEANNE

Who?

JHAI

My brother, Traith.

MOK

The one you killed?

Jhai shoots him a threatening look, but Mok doesn't care.

JHAI

Apparently not.

Jhai moves towards the door. Alain restrains him.

ALAIN

You don't have to do this. It wasn't real.

JHAI
It was real. I was there.

Halladale stares at the tree. He clears his throat.

HALLADALE
Look at the tree.

MOK
What about it?

HALLADALE
It didn't change.

No one understands.

HALLADALE (CONT'D)
When you told of your "betrayal,"
the tree didn't grow.

KELLE
Of course, it should have.

JHAI
What do you mean?

HALLADALE
You didn't do it. The Great Tree
ignored your "confession," because
you didn't actually betray anyone.

JHAI
That means he's real?

KELLE
It must.

Alain stands looking through the window. He points excitedly
outside.

KELLE (CONT'D)
Look!

They gather to look out at Traith.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Khuilo raises his hand.

JHAI
NOOOOOOOOOO!!!

KHUILO
The fifth sacrifice.

Jhai opens the door and rushes outside. No one tries to stop him.

The monsters stab Traith to death. Jhai drops to his knees, screaming.

KHUILO (CONT'D)
Bring forth the Greeth!

The Greeth walk on to "Some Kind of Monster," by Metallica.

METALLICA (V.O.)
*This is the test of flesh and soul
This is the trap that smells so
good
This is the flood that drains these
eyes
These are the looks that chill to
the bone*

The Greeth are bulky creatures made of some form of clear crystal that flows as they move. At the center of their body is a bubbling chamber of boiling molten lava.

The others rush outside in time to see four Greeth step through the barrier with no problem.

Halladale recognizes them.

HALLADALE
The Greeth.

ALAIN
You know these things?

HALLADALE
Know of them.

He holds up a finger and rushes back inside. The others are shocked at first, but Jhai's sobs get their attention.

The first of the Greeth reaches Jhai, but he pays it no mind, he's lost in his pain. The Greeth grabs ahold of Jhai with fingerless hands and begins to squeeze tightly. Bones crunch.

The Greeth opens its mouth and a deep vibrating harmony emerges from within. Instantly followed by a flow of molten lava. The Greeth vomits enough lava onto Jhai that his screams stop almost instantly.

MOK

What the hell do we do now?

Kelle fires an arrow, but it bounces off the Greeth's crystalline skin.

ALAIN

Demon-metal.

He rushes towards the nearest Greeth and smashes the glowing short sword against the Greeth's crystal exterior. It bounces off.

The Greeth opens its mouth. The vibrating sound comes out again, but Alain dives out of the way, crashing to the ground.

JEANNE

Get out of there!

He scrambles away as lava falls to the ground right behind him. He gets to his feet and easily eludes the slow-moving creatures.

JEANNE (CONT'D)

We can't hurt them.

YENNIK

What about the vaunted demon-metal?

ALAIN

You saw it. Useless.

He looks around at the remaining humans.

ALAIN (CONT'D)

Where's Gor?

KELLE

I haven't seen him in a while.

ALAIN

He's the only one--

Halladale rushes back out of the building. He's grinning as he carries a crate of wine bottles.

HALLADALE

Quickly. Grab a bottle.

Alain, Jeanne and Kelle grab bottles.

MOK

What?

HALLADALE
Not you. You suck.

He grabs two bottles and Yennik gets the last.

HALLADALE (CONT'D)
Do what I do.

Halladale runs towards the nearest Greeth. It turns towards him to vomit, the vibrating sound starts. Halladale smashes one of the wine bottles on the Greeth's head. The wine starts to melt through the Greeth's skin. The lava escapes its containment and flows to the ground. Empties its inner lava container fully onto the ground and freezes. Motionless.

HALLADALE (CONT'D)
Get them!

The others do, getting close enough to strike true. Halladale turns and smashes his bottle on the closest Greeth. Jeanne's bottle hits the same creature.

Lava splashes across his clothing and skin as the last of the Greeth melt away. Halladale rips off his burning shirt and they rush through the front door.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - MOMENTS LATER

They burst back into the room, helping the wounded and slamming the door behind them.

Flek waits inside holding a large jar filled with a salve.

FLEK
I saw the Greeth. This will help.

Halladale is the first to grab the salve. He starts applying it to the burns across his chest. Then his ankle.

ALAIN
Where's Featherlight?

Flek snarls at the name.

A supernaturally loud horn blows outside. Everyone goes silent.

ALAIN (CONT'D)
They're relentless now.

MOK
We'll never make it.

JEANNE
If I'm counting right. We have two
plagues left.

ALAIN
Grakking zint!

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - LATER

SUPER: The Sixth Plague

Khuilo grins as he steps towards the gate gain.

KHUILO
The sixth sacrifice.

He laughs. A chilling laugh.

FRANCOISE (O.S.)
Mommy?

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

The color drains from Alain's face.

ALAIN
No.

Jeanne flinches like she's been slapped in the face.

JEANNE
(whispered)
Francoise?

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Francoise comes walking down the pathway and through the barrier. She doesn't slow down. Her rotting skin drips with blood almost black in hue.

FRANCOISE
Mommy?

"Feel So Numb," by Rob Zombie, plays:

ROB ZOMBIE
*Yeah, sugar sweet Brainiac on your
neck
Get in to tomorrow, man, I gotta
reflect*

(MORE)

ROB ZOMBIE (CONT'D)
*A blue world, green girl up the
street
Gotta wake her up 'cause I don't
want to dream*

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Alain runs towards Jeanne and grabs her by the shoulders.

ALAIN
Don't listen to it.

JEANNE
Francoise?

ALAIN
It's not her. Its a demon.

She yanks her shoulder away from Alain.

ALAIN (CONT'D)
She's dead.

Jeanne pulls out a dagger and lunges at him. If it weren't for his glowing blue armor, she would've killed him.

JEANNE
I know!!!

Alain doesn't fight back.

JEANNE (CONT'D)
I can't lose her twice!

Alain puts his hands on her shoulders and makes her look him in the eyes.

ALAIN
You already have.

Tears run down her cheeks. Then she hears the voice of a demon coming from Francoise's mouth.

FRANCOISE (O.S.)
Mommy, why didn't you save me?

Jeanne's tears dry up. She steels herself. Then she opens the front door and walks out. Alain and the others quickly follow.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Khuilo raises his hand.

KHUILO

Bring forth the Revivra.

Khuilo drops his hand and the Monster Mages step away from the barrier and move into the gateway, facing the Outpost. They blast their red magic at the ground outside the barrier.

They keep blasting for 15 seconds then they go back to attacking the wall.

The Revivra walk on to "Feel So Numb," by Rob Zombie. The Revivra are slow zombies, mostly of members of the Capitol Guard.

ROB ZOMBIE (V.O.)

*Come on, come on, come on, you feel
it
Come on, come on, come on, you see
it
Come on, come on, come on, you
wanna make it all right
Blacken the sun
What have I done?
I feel so bad, I feel so numb, yeah*

A herd of several dozen Revivra work their way through the gate and the barrier with no resistance. Notably no Revivra rise from the graveyard, inside the magical barrier.

Kelle is first to reach one of the Revivra and she easily severs its head with demon-metal.

KELLE

The demon-metal works! Take them out!

FRANCOISE (O.S.)

Mommy?

Francoise is as dead as any of the Revivra. Jeanne stares at her and then drops to her knees sobbing. The monster comes towards her, its arms open to hug her.

And bite her.

Through her tears, Jeanne reaches out to hug Francoise.

Kelle runs towards Francoise and chops the monster's head off. The CAMERA doesn't show it as it cuts to Jeanne's pained reaction.

JEANNE

No!

The other humans easily dispatch the other Revivra.

Kelle kneels and hugs Jeanne. Jeanne hugs back.

Alain kills the last of the Revivra and stares at Jeanne and Kelle. He turns and walks inside. The others follow.

They stumble back towards the front door. By now, they're all bleeding or burnt or bruised in multiple places. They're breathing heavy and walking slowly.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Inside, Featherlight casts his magic upon the windows, but it's not blue this time, it's RED, like the Monster Mages.

Flek comes in through the back door and sees him.

FLEK

I knew it.

FEATHERLIGHT

Flek!

Flek grabs a knife and runs at Featherlight. The mage drops his spell and turns towards Flek. He's not quick enough and the knife sinks deeply into Featherlight's shoulder. For a second, his face flickers, magic is starting to wear off and reveal something else underneath.

Featherlight pushes Flek away and the knife falls to the ground. Featherlight reaches back to feel the wound and he looks at the blue-colored blood on his hand.

Flek smashes into him and knocks him to the ground. Featherlight's head smacks hard on the stone floor, drawing blood.

Flek grabs the knife and stabs Featherlight a dozen times in the chest. He's dead.

Flek sits on the floor. Exhausted. He never takes his eyes off of Featherlight.

A green magic dissipates from Featherlight's body and his form changes. He isn't human, but is more of a lizard-human hybrid.

Flek stabs him a few more times.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - LATER

The remaining humans come back inside, weary from their toughest fight yet.

Mok walks ahead of the others and stops short when he sees the dead body of the 'ganger.

MOK
What is that?

KELLE
Looks like a...

HALLADALE
A 'ganger?

Several people nod.

ALAIN
Featherlight? Where's Featherlight?

JEANNE
This IS Featherlight.

MOK
No way.

JEANNE
The clothes.

Halladale nods.

HALLADALE
It's him. He's a 'ganger.

ALAIN
A dead 'ganger.

YENNIK
Where's Gor?

KELLE
Where's Flek?

JEANNE
Check the other rooms.

Yennik heads for the door on the right, Halladale to the left.

YENNIK
Nothing in here.

Halladale stands frozen in the other doorway.

HALLADALE

Grakk.

Several of the others gather around the doorway. They stare at Gor's body, which has been stabbed a LOT of times. Blood soaks the bed. Halladale shuts the door.

YENNIK

Where is Flek? I need some more of that salve.

ALAIN

I'll look over here.

He steps forward and sees Kelle and Jeanne kiss and then embrace.

ALAIN (CONT'D)

I... uh...

The women move apart. Alain waves a hand in their direction, clearly embarrassed.

ALAIN (CONT'D)

No... I... was just looking for Flek. Have you seen Flek?

Jeanne smiles pleasantly.

JEANNE

I have not.

Alain looks towards Kelle. Kelle shakes her head.

Alain backs away, he's not really okay. He turns and walks away.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

More and more monsters have arrived. The line around the energy barrier stands more than a dozen monsters deep.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Alain stands at the window.

ALAIN

It looks like there are a LOT more of them out there.

He turns to look at Jeanne, but she looks away.

ALAIN (CONT'D)
Are you sure they can't get in?

JEANNE
Not any more.

ALAIN
What the grakk?

Alain throws an ale mug against the wall and yells as loud as he can.

KELLE
That help?

ALAIN
What the fuck is wrong with you
all? You're just going to sit
around and let them kill us all?

They all just stare at him.

ALAIN (CONT'D)
Pathetic. Not me.

Alain turns toward Yennik.

ALAIN (CONT'D)
Go with me.

He grins maniacally. She scoffs.

YENNIK
What?

ALAIN
We're all gonna die anyway, why not
go out as heroes. Get our names in
the magic scroll and all that.

She grins at first, thinking he's joking. He doesn't grin. He's not joking. She gets serious.

YENNIK
No.

Alain flinches.

YENNIK (CONT'D)
Like, you're a good fuck, but it's
suicide to go out there.

He gets another mug of ale and chugs it.

YENNIK (CONT'D)

And I'm not killing myself because
you can't get over your ex.

He grimaces and turns towards the door. Halladale and Kelle block his way.

ALAIN

Move. Or I'll move you.

KELLE

You know me better than that.

HALLADALE

And you don't know me at all if you
think you can move me.

Alain stands his ground, nearly growling in anger. Jeanne goes into the kitchen to get a drink. She ignores Alain's drama.

A supernaturally loud horn blows outside. Everyone goes silent and crowds around the windows except Jeanne.

This time, the BEASTS come. Some are large. Some are small. Some are winged. They range from the size of a large tiger to the size of a whale on land.

As the beasts arrive, "Godzilla," by Blue Oyster Cult, plays.

BLUE OYSTER CULT (V.O.)

*Oh no, they say, he's got to go
Go go Godzilla, yeah
Oh no, there goes Tokyo
Go go Godzilla, yeah
History shows again and again
How nature points out the folly of
men
Godzilla*

The rest of the monsters clear a path and the dozens of Beasts move forward until they meet the magical barrier. They don't stop. They push on the barrier. They spread out, attacking it from every possible side. The winged Beasts attack high and some beasts dig below the ground and attack low. The barrier starts to flicker.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Alain stares out the window. Fear mars his face for the first time.

ALAIN

What the grakk are we going to do
now?

KRUGAN (O.S.)

I have some thoughts.

KRUGAN walks in through the back door. She is a white woman
(*played by Kathy Bates*). Krugan's walk-on song plays: "Am I
Evil?" by Diamond Head.

DIAMOND HEAD (V.O.)

*Twenty-seven, everyone is nice
Got to see 'em, make 'em pay the
price
See their bodies out on the ice
Take my time
Am I evil?
Yes I am
Am I evil?
I am man
Yes I am*

MOK

Wait, Krugan's a woman?

KELLE

Why wouldn't she be?

MOK

I don't know, I just assume big
powerful immortal beings are men.

JEANNE

You don't think that women can--

KRUGAN

Hey wrong time... hell, wrong
century for this conversation.

They stop and stare at her.

KRUGAN (CONT'D)

I think you have more pressing
concerns at the moment than,
whatever...

She waves off their discussion.

KRUGAN (CONT'D)

Whatever this is that you're
wasting your last moments over.

They quiet down.

KRUGAN (CONT'D)
So I have your attention?

Nods and murmurs of assent.

 KRUGAN (CONT'D)
I am LITERALLY your last friend.

 JEANNE
Then help us.

 KRUGAN
The world helps those who help
themselves.

 MOK
What the hell does that mean?

Krugan raises an eyebrow.

 KRUGAN
I'm not sure I like your tone,
young man.

 MOK
Am I supposed--

 ALAIN
Stow it.

He does.

 KRUGAN
That was fun. We might need that
again later.

She winks at Alain. He doesn't react, but Mok's anger grows.

 YENNIK
What do you mean "help ourselves"?

Krugan waves her arms around the library.

 KRUGAN
I chronicle everything. All the
answers are here in this room.

 HALLADALE
Including a way to save humanity?

Krugan turns and winks at Halladale.

 KELLE
So tell us.

MOK

She's useless. She wasn't--

A supernaturally loud horn blows outside. Everyone goes silent except for Krugan, who laughs.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

SUPER: The Last Plague

Khuilo raises both of his arms to the air. The monsters cheer loudly.

KHUILO

The final sacrifice.

The Cat People bring D'Johnt out. He's still in chains, but he's been stripped of his robes, beaten and tortured. He's also been gagged, never to speak again.

The monsters stab him to death.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - MOMENTS LATER

Inside, the surviving humans stare out the window, panicked. Alain looks back towards the inside of the Outpost, but Krugan is nowhere to be seen.

ALAIN

She's gone!

They look towards the center of the building.

MOK

Who?

ALAIN

Die bleeding, you zint.

Mok backs down.

HALLADALE

We have to finalize the spell!

YENNIK

How?

HALLADALE

If we can't include the words of Cathbad and Belit, we can include their blood.

JEANNE
Will that work?

MOK
She's outside. With her blood.

JEANNE
Someone has to go get it.

HALLADALE
I'll get Gor's blood.

He smiles as he heads towards the magic room.

ALAIN
You...

He points to Mok.

ALAIN (CONT'D)
Get the senator's head.

MOK
Grakk you!

Alain notices Featherlight's staff leaning against the wall. He picks it up and whacks Mok across the head. No one else cares as Mok crashes to the ground.

Mok tries to stand up but falls on his ass. Blood drips heavily from the wound.

Alain throws the staff aside and picks up one of the demon-metal swords.

ALAIN
Go. Or die. I don't care which.

Kelle grabs Mok by the arm and pulls him towards the door.

KELLE
I'll help him.

Mok looks at her, puzzled, as they go outside.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Kelle shuts the door behind her and shoves him forward.

MOK
Aren't you coming?

KELLE

No.

She points a dragon-metal sword at him and nods for him to go.

MOK

You've got to be kidding?

She presses the sword into his back. And pushes further until it gets uncomfortable and he walks away.

As he turns towards the army of monsters, he pisses himself.

Kelle kicks him in the ass and he falls forward. The monsters laugh at him.

He crawls forward a few steps.

KELLE

You've seen me with a bow, right?
I'm much deadlier with a sword.

MOK

Alright, alright.

He pulls himself to his feet and stumbles through the bodies of dead monsters and Jhai and whatever. He looks around for the senator's head as the monsters jeer him.

Mok finds it. Closer to the barrier than he would like.

He tiptoes towards it, as if they monsters won't see him.

They roar and jeer him and he has to force himself to go. He leans down to pick up the head and the arms of one of the monsters reaches through the barrier and almost grabs him.

Mok grabs the head and runs back towards Kelle. He holds the head up as he runs, joy on his face.

He stops right in front of Kelle. She stabs him in the gut. He drops the head and the joy drains from his face.

MOK (CONT'D)

You said you wouldn't kill me until
I was the LAST man alive.

She laughs.

MOK (CONT'D)

I lied.

She stabs him again.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Kelle walks back in and tosses the head next to the tree.

JEANNE
Where's Mok?

KELLE
Do you care?

JEANNE
No.

Halladale picks up the head and walks towards the tree. He also carries Gor's bloody hand.

KELLE
That your work?

Halladale shakes his head in disgust.

HALLADALE
Featherlight.

She nods.

He rubs the severed body parts on the tree and it starts to grow more green. But slowly.

JEANNE
Is it going to work?

A series of massive crashing sounds shake the walls of the Outpost.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Under the constant pressure of the Beasts and the Monster Mages, the energy barrier cracks. Then it breaks.

The energy barrier starts to crumble, almost as if it were made of brick. At the lower levels, monsters burst through parts of the barrier, which falls to nothing as the monsters push forward. Khuilo leads them.

KHUILO
Hold here. I will go in alone.

Laughter from the monsters. Khuilo knocks on the door.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Khuilo opens the door and walks in. Everyone stares at him for a moment.

Kelle runs towards him, her demon-metal sword raised to strike.

He slaps her to the ground effortlessly.

KHUILO
Are you done?

Jeanne rushes to check on Kelle. Kelle nods that she's okay.

Jeanne looks up at Khuilo with vengeance in her eyes.

JEANNE
For that you will die!

He laughs. She lunges at him.

Faster than human, he pulls a flaming blade from his belt and stabs her in the shoulder.

Alain rushes forward and Khuilo stabs him as well.

Alain shakes it off and drives the demon-metal directly at Khuilo's chest.

KHUILO
Eat demon-metal, you monster!

The sword breaks against Khuilo's chest.

Khuilo laughs at Alain. And then the others.

KHUILO (CONT'D)
Demon-metal? What the fuck is demon-metal?

Khuilo lops Alain's head off. Jeanne screams. Kelle looks away. Halladale freezes.

Yennik thinks she has an angle and runs towards Khuilo, but he turns the flaming sword to her and she stops.

HALLADALE
He'll kill you.

YENNIK
Aren't we going to die anyway?

Khuilo laughs.

KHUILO
You already lost whatever advantage
you thought you had.

Beat.

KHUILO (CONT'D)
Anyone else?

He points his flaming dagger at each of them in turn.

KHUILO (CONT'D)
I didn't come in to fight, I came
to offer you a choice.

Khuilo turns and walks towards the door.

KHUILO (CONT'D)
You have two choices... Stay here
and be crushed as we destroy the
Outpost...

He laughs.

KHUILO (CONT'D)
Or come outside and we'll kill you
quickly. I can't guarantee nobody
will eat you, but at least your
death be quick.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Khuilo shuts the door behind him.

KHUILO
Crush "Krugan's Outpost."

The large monsters shamble towards the building, their thunderous steps shaking the ground. The human-sized monsters break windows and throw rocks. Khuilo laughs maniacally.

INT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

The room shakes inside. Books fall. Glass shatters.

JEANNE
The barrier has fallen.

KELLE
Seconds before the building
follows.

They look around in panic.

HALLADALE

Take cover under that beam!

He points to a support beam that crosses the back wall, under the staircase. They slide under it just as the first of the Outpost's walls start to cave in.

Dust and smoke obscure the view as the sounds of the Outpost collapsing continue.

The dust settles. The Outpost is a pile of rubble. Nothing moves within.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - MOMENTS LATER

Khuilo walks down the path, from the front of the crumbled Outpost towards the rest of the monsters, who wait at the gate.

KHUILO

It is done.

Cheers from the monsters.

Khuilo exits the gate and wades into the crowd of monsters, who turn to leave.

One of the monsters looks up at the Outpost. Krugan walks from behind the ruins of the Outpost.

MONSTER

Look!

It points towards Krugan. The other monsters turn to see.

Khuilo turns last. Then makes eye contact with Krugan. Khuilo relaxes. Krugan walks down the path, sidestepping corpses and wreckage.

KHUILO

You going to try again?

KRUGAN

Of course. It is my nature.

They exchange a smile. They are almost face-to-face now.

KRUGAN (CONT'D)

You going to kill whatever I make?

KHUILO
It is our nature.

Laughter.

KHUILO (CONT'D)
You going to make the same again
this time?

KRUGAN
Humans? Nah, Flek was the one who
liked them so much. They bore me.
I'm thinking of something new.

KHUILO
Can you make the new ones taste
less like chicken?

All the monsters roar with laughter. Krugan slaps Khuilo on the shoulder and they part ways. Khuilo and the monsters slink away as Krugan watches.

CREDITS.

EXT. KRUGAN'S OUTPOST - MORNING

Shot of the front of the ruins of the Outpost as the sun rises. Krugan is gone. Nothing moves. Until...

Flek appears at the back gate of the graveyard. Flek's walk-on song plays again. He looks around, but doesn't see anything.

Flek pauses for a few more moments, waiting for anything to happen. It doesn't.

Flek slowly, carefully steps out into the open. Nothing happens. The tension in Flek's body lessens.

He runs down the path towards the ruins of the Outpost. He starts picking rocks and wooden beams and other debris from the pile.

After pulling off a dozen pieces from the rubble, Flek pulls away a large beam, revealing a hole. A human hand reaches out and grabs his wrist. Flek flinches.

Kelle pushes the hole wider open and she climbs out of the wreckage. She turns her hand to reach back inside and helps Jeanne out. They help Yennik out. And Halladale.

FLEK
Is that the last?

JEANNE
Yes, we are the last.

KELLE
I didn't think that was going to
work.

JEANNE
I didn't believe the beam would
hold.

HALLADALE
It did.

JEANNE
Praise Malagig.

Halladale nods and rolls his eyes.

HALLADALE
Something like that.

YENNIK
You saved us.

JEANNE
Why?

HALLADALE
Because I don't believe your fake
prophecies means I want to die or
want humanity to die out.

Jeanne nods.

FLEK
This way.

He walks away from the ruins of the Outpost.

JEANNE
Are we the last?

FLEK
No, there are others.

Beat.

FLEK (CONT'D)
There are always others.

They walk through the back gate and into the empty city streets.

FADE OUT.