

THE BLACK BOOK

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FADE IN:

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE/BEACH - DAY

We read a subtitle in the sky.

" Ireland 1602 "

RICHARD MASON, tall, 27, handsome, his face covered with a few days growth, lays on top of the White Rock Ridge, which arches around the beach.

20 ENGLISHMEN also lay with WEAPONRY along the Ridge. Richard's tired eyes stare down upon a Spanish Single Decker Galleon VESSEL, which has crashed upon the rocky sand-pebbled shore.

Recognizable by its middle SAIL'S image of an EAGLE wearing a CROWN with a ANCHOR below. TEN SPANIARDS are unloading SUPPLIES. They wear Spanish KETTLE HATS with their RAPIER SWORDS hanging from their BELTS.

RICHARD

Spanish?

(beat)

What are they doing in Ireland?

Richard wears a SACHEL and BOW on his back. He turns toward a laying CHARLES MASON, 28, tall, rugged, armed with a LONG-SWORD and BUCKLER SHIELD as he brushes his long BROWN hair off his face.

FREDRICK FISCHER, 33, armed with a LONG SPEAR and wearing a SUGAR LOAF HAT lays next to Charles. Fredrick's weather-worn and battle-scared face watches as the Spanish unload their SUPPLIES.

CHARLES

Coming here, they think they can slow down our Queens' efforts in Holland.

FREDRICK

Those helmets must be slowing them down. They look ridiculous.

Charles stares at Fredrick's HAT.

CHARLES

Really?

Fredrick tugs on his HAT.

FREDRICK  
What? They're all the rage in  
London.

Fredrick smiles displaying his missing TEETH. Charles  
shakes his head.

CHARLES  
Don't do that.

RICHARD  
So we'll be seeing more English men  
soon?

Charles' head is turned towards Richard, who rolls his eyes  
toward Fredrick.

CHARLES  
(smirks)  
No brother, only the ones with brains  
and bravery came here.

FREDRICK  
Very true Charles, very true.

RICHARD  
These poor souls, never to see their  
loved ones again.

Richard genuflects.

FREDRICK  
That's right Richard and I'm going to  
drink all their wine!

SUDDENLY -

A CANNON BALL smashes into the RIDGE. ROCK and EARTH fly  
through the air, landing inches from the men.

RICHARD  
We've been spotted!

FREDRICK  
You think?!

CHARLES  
Maybe that hat gave us away?

Fredrick tugs on his HAT.

FREDRICK

Did not.

(beat)

Off with their fucking heads!

The English Men YELL out their battle cries. Familiar with the terrain, they charge down the Ridge, their feet gliding down the White Rock from three pathways leading onto the beach. Charles and Fredrick take the lead as Richard follows. In a matter of seconds, their feet touch SAND.

Charles turns to Richard.

CHARLES

(yells)

Stay close.

Another CANNON BALL is SHOT, mowing down Two English Men as they slide down a White Rock pathway.

TEN SPANIARDS rush from the VESSEL onto the beach. Their SWORDS in hand, they clash with the English Men.

VESSEL -

Three Spaniards armed with MUSKETS aim down upon the crowd from their VESSEL. SHOTS are FIRED, striking an English Man.

RICHARD -

with BOW in one hand and 8 ARROWS in the other, runs behind Charles.

RICHARD

Forgive me Father, for what I'm about to do.

Charles points with his SWORD at the VESSEL.

CHARLES

There brother!

Richard lets an ARROW loose, striking a Spaniard holding a MUSKET on the VESSEL in the neck, BLOOD begins to spill from his mouth.

FREDRICK -

exchanges blows with a Spaniard.

FREDRICK

I can taste that wine already.

(MORE)

FREDRICK (cont'd)  
 (licks his lips)

Another Spaniard rushes toward Fredrick unbeknownst to him, with his RAPIER held above his head, he begins to bring down the RAPIER.

SUDDENLY -

An ARROW sticks out from the Spaniards FOREHEAD sending him to the ground.

Fredrick sees the Spaniard fall to the ground and looks over to see Richard with BOW in hand.

FREDRICK (cont'd)  
 (yells)  
 You want me to have that drink  
 Richard!

Fredrick lunges forward stabbing a Spaniard twice in the chest.

CHARLES -

blocks a Spaniard's RAPIER with his BUCKLER. He then slashes the Spaniards LEG, and twirls around the Spaniard bringing them back to back. Charles thrusts his SWORD backwards piercing the Spaniards BACK.

CU CHARLES SWORD - SWORDS EDGE RIPPING THROUGH SPANIARDS CHEST PLATE.

RICHARD -

RICHARD  
 (whispers)  
 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they  
 shall be the children of God.

takes aim towards the VESSEL while running. He rapidly lets loose TWO ARROWS which strike a Spaniard with a MUSKET on the VESSEL in the chest.

An EnglishMen runs up the BOARD placed between the beach and the VESSEL.

SUDDENLY -

A Spaniard with a MUSKET pops out from behind a BEAM and FIRES, exploding the English Men's Face, and sending his body tumbling down the BOARD. The Spaniard returns to hiding behind the BEAM.

RETURN TO RICHARD -

stops in his tracks and takes aim towards at the hiding Spaniard.

CHARLES -

clashes with a Spaniard, exchanging blows back and forth.

CHARLES

(annoyed)

There's always that one, who knows  
how to use a sword.

The Spaniard smiles. Charles two-hands his SWORD as the Spaniard thrusts his RAPIER forward. Charles blocks the blow then jabs the HANDLE of his SWORD forward knocking off the Spaniard's HELMET. The Spaniard, now furious, has overhanded his RAPIER and swings downward. Charles blocks his blow again.

Charles spins and crashes the HANDLE of the SWORD on top of the Spaniards HEAD caving it in.

Another English Men runs up the BOARD to the VESSEL but is sent tumbling backwards as he is HIT by MUSKET FIRE.

The Spaniard still hides behind the BEAM on the VESSEL. Only his MUSKET can be seen as it leans against the BEAM guarding him from attack.

RICHARD -

while holding his ARROWS, licks his INDEX FINGER and holds it up. He places an ARROW in the BOW and lets it loose. The ARROW flies toward the VESSEL, bending around the BEAM, striking the Spaniard in the SHOULDER.

He comes out from behind the BEAM, to be struck twice more with ARROWS to his chest.

CHARLES (cont'd)

(yells)

Beautiful, Richard, just beautiful!

Ten English Men rush aboard the VESSEL and kill FIVE remaining SPANIARDS. Eight English Men have died in the battle, with all Twenty Spaniards killed along the beach. The English Men yell out their victory cries. Fredrick walks over to Richard and slaps him on the back.

FREDRICK

How'd you get so good with that?

RICHARD  
I've only been given what God gave  
me.

Charles stands beside Fredrick.

CHARLES  
(smiles)  
Well I'm glad God brought you to us.

Charles hugs Richard as Fredrick walks away to investigate  
the beach.

RICHARD  
As I feel blessed to have you  
Charles.

FREDRICK -

looks down upon a PRIEST, short, 45, and shivering. His  
Forehead BLOODIED, as he lays upon the beach. He tightly  
holds onto a WOODEN BOX, with a LOCK on its side. The  
Priest tries to rise but Fredrick stomps on his chest.

FREDRICK  
(yells)  
Look what we have here gentlemen!

Richard and Charles walk over to Fredrick.

FREDRICK (cont'd)  
His Pope didn't help him today.  
(beat)  
Or his Saints.

RICHARD  
Yes, we are only to give thanks to  
God.

CHARLES  
And he was on our side today.

We read English subtitles at the bottom of the screen.

PRIEST  
(Spanish)  
It's mine! I'm to learn his ways!

CHARLES  
What is he on about?

The Priest tussles underneath Fredrick's FOOT.

PRIEST  
(Spanish)  
It's mine!

SUDDENLY -

Fredrick's SPEAR stabs the Priest in his neck. He then repeatedly stabs his chest. Charles pushes Fredrick back.

CHARLES  
What did you do that for!?

FREDRICK  
I didn't like his tone.

RICHARD  
You shouldn't of done that! He was a man of God.

FREDRICK  
And now he shall see him.

The Priest has passed but his eyes are still open as well as his mouth.

CHARLES  
Let's get on there, hopefully there's something to eat.

FREDRICK  
Nobody better of touched my wine!

Charles and Fredrick walk towards the VESSEL. Richard bends over the Priest and closes his eyes.

RICHARD  
Father of all, we pray to you for the fallen, grant him eternal rest.

SUDDENLY -

The BOX shifts slightly. Richard, surprised by it's movement, picks up the BOX and investigates it.

Richard looks down upon the dead Priest, then out to the open SEA.

EXT. GRASS FIELD/VILLAGE - MORNING/LIGHT RAIN

Richard, Charles and Fredrick walk down a sloped GRASS FIELD with Ten English Men heading towards their small farming VILLAGE. In the distance seven small HOUSES are seen, made of STONE with WHEATEN STRAW ROOFS.

A DIRT PATHWAY leads to the VILLAGE, with STONES and SHRUBBERY dividing the HOUSES.

FREDRICK

(singing)

Over the hills and far away, Our  
Queen commands us to obey. There's  
40 acres for you today, first you  
must go over the hills and far away!

Fredrick drinks from a BOTA BAG as his body sways. Richard and Charles smile at one another and then laugh.

FREDRICK (cont'd)

A toast to Richard and his bow!

(drinks from BOTA BAG)

Here Richard, drink!

Fredrick pushes the BOTA BAG into Richard's chest.

RICHARD

I'm good, but thank you Fredrick. I  
want to have a clear head when I see  
Rose and Audrey.

CHARLES

I'll have some of that.

Charles grabs the BAG from Richard and takes a swig.

FREDRICK

I get it Richard.  
(slaps his forearm  
twice)

You must make sure you can stay hard,  
for when you get home.

Richard blushes.

CHARLES

Let him kiss me with the kisses of  
his mouth! For your love is better  
than wine.

RICHARD

From the Old Testament, Song of  
Solomon, very good brother.

FREDRICK

Yes, but for your kisses to be better  
than wine, it all depends on where  
your mouth is kissing her.

(laughs)

Am I right boys?!

(beat)

Look, it seems some of us have been  
missed.

Five English Women dressed in LEINE'S, with a DRESS over  
top, hastily travel the DIRT PATH towards the Men. Men and  
Women start to embrace and WEEPING can be HEARD from some of  
the Women.

CHARLES

(excited)

Charlotte!

CHARLOTTE MASON, 28, petite, brunette, carries her son  
EDMUND MASON, 2, upon the side of her hip, while her other  
son NOAH MASON, 6, holds her hand. She is overcome with  
emotion at the sight of her husband as are the two boys.

CHARLOTTE

Edmund, Noah! Papa has come home to  
us!

Noah lets go of his Mother's hand and rushes towards  
Charles, who picks him off the ground and gives him a warm  
hug.

NOAH

(smiles)

Hello, Papa.

CHARLES

Good day my boy, I've missed you so,  
but have you been good to your  
Mother?

Noah shakes his head "yes". Charles carries Noah over to  
Charlotte and gives her a kiss and hugs the two of them.

CHARLES (cont'd)

So they have been good boys, Mama?

CHARLOTTE

They have.

(MORE)

CHARLOTTE (cont'd)

(weeps)

They have...

Charles places Noah on the ground and grabs Edmund and lifts him up and smiles at his son. Noah grabs on to his Mother's hand.

CHARLES

What is it Mama?

Charlotte glances towards Richard and bows her head and begins to weep.

CHARLOTTE

I'm so sorry Richard.

Charlotte lets go of Noah's hand and walks over and tightly hugs Richard. TEARS run down her face.

MEN AND WOMEN -

begin to hastily travel toward the Village.

BACK TO CHARLOTTE -

RICHARD

Sorry for what Charlotte?

Charles places Edmund on his hip and moves closer, as Noah moves next to him.

CHARLES

Yes, what are you on about?

Charlotte releases her grasp of Richard.

FREDRICK

(sarcastically)

Don't mind me I'm good.

CHARLOTTE

(weeps)

I didn't have time, time to get to them.

(beat)

As we fled, they were already upon your home. I saw four Men enter. I was so scared, the children were with me. I didn't even utter a word.

(weeping)

Forgive me Richard.

CHARLES

What Men?

CHARLOTTE

Irish, heathens, animals! They ravaged our homes, they violated our women.

Charlotte is overcome with sadness as Richard tries to comfort her. He firmly places his hands on her shoulders.

RICHARD

Where is Rose, Audrey!?

CHARLOTTE

They are with our maker now.

Richard gently pushes Charlotte back.

RICHARD

No. That can't be.

FREDRICK

Bastards!

CHARLOTTE

I'm so sorry Richard.

RICHARD

(hysterical)

Rose! Rose!

Richard begins to run toward the Village.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RICHARDS' HOUSE - DAY

Richard stands next to a WOODEN TABLE, running his hand over his deceased wife's hair. ROSE MASON 26, blonde, pale and pregnant, lies on the TABLE. His daughter AUDREY MASON, 5, brunette, lays next to her.

Exposed BRICK surrounds the room. A small FIREPLACE sits in the middle of the room and a WOODEN CABINET stands next to a wall with cutlery and plates being displayed.

Charles, Charlotte, Fredrick and the two boys stand quietly staring at the TABLE.

RICHARD

Whom God loves dies young.

FREDRICK

(angry)

Well that's not right! Revenge will  
be ours!

Charles places his hand on Fredrick's shoulder as Richard is  
in a daze and continues to stroke Rose's hair.

CHARLES

You're right it isn't and we will  
avenge their deaths.

Charles walks over and places his hand on Richards shoulder  
but he is unresponsive as he continues to stroke Rose's  
hair.

CHARLES (cont'd)

When did this happen?

CHARLOTTE

Late afternoon.

Fredrick looks at Charles.

FREDRICK

They shouldn't be far then.

CHARLES

Charlotte, please take the boys home,  
I'll be there shortly.

RICHARD

I'll bury them tomorrow, I want to  
sleep with them one last time.

Charlotte, weeping, pulls the two boys to the DOOR and  
exits.

FREDRICK

We will find these savages and  
butcher them like the dogs they are!

RICHARD

God called me to this land, it was  
his will.

FREDRICK

What are you saying? For us to do  
nothing?

RICHARD

If God wills it, then it will be so.

Richard continues stroking Rose's hair.

FREDRICK

(anger)

Men! Make actions happen. I will not sit idly by while these pagans run free!

CHARLES

And we won't. Fredrick, go talk to the others, see if you can find any particulars. We want to know where they're headed.

FREDRICK

Right.

Fredrick looks over at Richard and shakes his head.

CHARLES

I'm sorry brother, they shouldn't have been taken from you. Rose was such a fine woman.

(weeps)

Audrey...

(anger)

They will pay. Come back with me, you must be famished and you need to eat.

RICHARD

My place is here, with them.

CHARLES

Alright brother, alright.

Richard stares at Rose as Charles exits the House. Richard reaches into his SATCHEL and pulls out the WOODEN BOX.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RICHARDS' HOUSE - DAY

Richard sits upon a CHAIR at the end of the TABLE where Rose and Audrey lay. The WOODEN BOX lays next to the TABLE, its LOCK broken off. The BLACK BOOK sits upon the TABLE.

RICHARD

Maybe there will be a good story for us in here girls?

Richard opens the BLACK BOOK and examines it.

CU BLACK BOOK - PAGES ARE LIGHT RED WITH LETTERING DRAWN IN BLACK INK.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
Ah Latin, the universal language they say Rose.

(Beat)  
Et missum est fratis campum. My brothers and I were thrown to this plain. Illum contra se insurgere fecit nos. Rebel against him we did. Nunc docebo comedere carnes omnium liberorum uerum. Now I will teach his children the true joy of devouring their flesh.

CU BLACK BOOK - DUST PARTICLES BEGIN TO LIFT OFF ITS PAGES.

DUST PARTICLES travel up Richard's Nose.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
(disturbed)  
What blasphemy is this!

Richard shovels the Black BOOK as his head tilts upwards.

CU RICHARD - EYES BECOME DILATED.

Richard pulls the Black BOOK towards him and continues to read from its pages. His body begins to sway from side to side as he continues to look at the BOOK.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT - DREAM

Richard looks up between the BRANCHES of the TREES that surround him. The Night SKY is CRIMSON as STARS shine brightly. Richard looks to the Forest Floor to see a STREAM of BLOOD running between his legs.

He glances at his left hand that holds a HUMAN LIVER, while his right holds a GREAT-SWORD.

CU RICHARD - SMILES AND OPENS HIS MOUTH WIDELY AS HE TAKES A BITE OF THE LIVER. BLOOD SPILLS FROM HIS MOUTH AS HIS EYES DILATE.

5 CORPSES of IRISH MEN lay behind him. Their BODIES have been disfigured with their INTESTINES spilling out of their Stomachs.

INT. RICHARDS' HOUSE - NIGHT

CHARLES (O.S.)  
Richard, Richard!

RICHARD'S P.O.V. -

Charles stands before Richard and shakes his shoulders as he sits upon his CHAIR.

CHARLES  
Richard! We've found their tracks.

Fredrick stands behind Charles while he shakes Richard's shoulders and sees the BLACK BOOK open upon the TABLE.

FREDRICK  
Is he asleep or under a spell?

CU RICHARD - HIS EYES REGAIN FOCUS WHILE HE SHAKES HIS HEAD, REALIZING CHARLES AND FREDRICK STAND BEFORE HIM.

RICHARD  
Neither, I am with you.

FREDRICK  
Good, for our Lord tonight is a vengeful God, one who seeks for you to act!

RICHARD  
I believe you're right Fredrick.

FREDRICK  
(surprised)  
Well of course I am.

RICHARD  
He has shown me a vision and my sword shall be his blade.

FREDRICK  
Sword? I am encouraged by your new sense of vigor but surely you mean your bow.

CHARLES  
Yes brother, do you not mean your bow?

Richard stands and walks over to a CABINET and pulls out his GREAT-SWORD from it's SHEATH and examines it as Charles and Fredrick share a glance.

RICHARD

Though I have not wheeled it in some time, he wishes me to use it.

Richard begins to genuflect but stops short from bringing his hand to his right pectoral.

CU FREDRICK - ODD.

CHARLES

I don't want to disagree with him but your bow was meant for your hands brother.

FREDRICK

Agree, it is the courage that allows me to rush forward.

CHARLES

(smirks)

I thought it was for your love of wine.

FREDRICK

Is not?! You know I do not discriminate from any spirit.

Richard ties a LEATHER SWORD BELT around his waist, places his SWORD in its SHEATH and walks towards the TABLE with Rose and Audrey. He hastily picks up the BLACK BOOK as it lays at their feet and stares upon it.

RICHARD

He has revealed what I am to do.

Richard places the BLACK BOOK into its WOODEN BOX.

FREDRICK

So he wishes you to bring this book?

Richard looks down upon the BOX and hesitates.

RICHARD

No, it must remain hidden though.

Charles places a SHEET over Rose and Audrey's deceased bodies as Richard investigates the room. Richard slides a WOODEN PANEL from the bottom of the WOODEN CABINET and places the BOX inside and returns the PANEL.

FREDRICK

I am honored by the trust you have bestowed upon me.

Charles slaps Fredrick on his shoulder.

CHARLES  
It is only for he knows you cannot  
read.  
(smirks/laughs)

FREDRICK  
(annoyed)  
Can too.

Richard kisses Audrey's forehead that lays beneath the SHEET  
and then lowers his head to Rose's forehead and hesitates.

CU RICHARD - NOSTRILS FLARE, MOUTH BEGINS TO SALIVATE.

QUICK FLASH - CRIMSON SKY, BLOOD SLIPS FROM RICHARD'S MOUTH  
AS HE CHEWS.

RETURN TO SCENE

Richard regains his focus and kisses Rose's forehead.

RICHARD  
Your light was extinguished too soon  
my love.

EXT. EMERALD FOREST - NIGHT

10 IRISH MEN sit among a small FIRE within MOSS covered  
TREES. Their only other illumination comes from the MOON  
that shines above. Some eat small GAME and converse in  
their native GAELIC tongue.

Charles, Fredrick and 5 English Men slowly move within the  
Forest.

IRISH MEN #1 rises from the FIRE with his SWORD and walks  
within the Forest. He raises his KILT to relieve himself.

Charles and Fredrick -

have spotted the Irish Men and take cover behind the Forest  
TREES.

FREDRICK  
I see no ale?

CHARLES  
We have come for their lives, not  
what they have brewed.

FREDRICK  
True, forgive me Richard.

Fredrick looks over his shoulder and investigates a dark Forest floor.

IRISH MAN #1 -

the SOUND of branches crackling is HEARD O.S. He finishes relieving himself and moves forward to investigate.

RICHARD (O.S.)  
(Gaelic)  
Dia dhuit.

Irish Man #1 quickly spins around, aiming his SWORD forward.

IRISH MAN #1  
(Gaelic)  
Ca bhfuil tu?

RICHARD (O.S.)  
Can you not see me?

Irish Men #1 wildly swings his SWORD and spins around to an empty Forest.

CHARLES AND FREDRICK -

CHARLES  
(quietly)  
Richard? Where is he?

Fredrick shrugs his shoulders.

FREDRICK  
But we must act.

IRISH MAN #1 -

fear surrounds his face as he quickly rushes towards the FIRE.

SUDDENLY -

Richard's GREAT-SWORD pierces his stomach as he lays upon the Forest floor. Richard wears a BLACK CLOAK with its hood covering his head camouflaging him from the Irish Man's sight.

The Irish Man thrusts his SWORD forward, only to strike earth.

Richard rises and pushes his SWORD further into his stomach. He kicks Irish Man's #1 hand, causing him to release his grip of his SWORD.

CU IRISH MAN #1 - BEGINS TO CALL OUT, WHEN SUDDENLY RICHARD'S GREAT-SWORD SLASHES HIS THROAT.

Richard grabs Irish Man #1 by his throat and gently steers him towards the ground.

RICHARD  
No, I will not taste his flesh.

Richard looks down upon his hand covered in BLOOD.

CU RICHARD'S HAND - BLOOD SOAKED.

Richard tries to resist as he slowly raises his BLOOD-soaked hand towards his mouth. He forcefully slaps his hand over his mouth and shoves two fingers inside.

CU RICHARD - EYES DILATE, A BLACK CLOUD RUNS ACROSS HIS EYES AS A SINISTER SMILE WASHES OVER HIS FACE.

CHARLES AND FREDRICK -

FREDRICK  
There.

Fredrick aims his SPEAR forward.

FREDRICK'S P.O.V. -

Richard slowly walks towards the IRISH MEN'S camp.

RETURN TO SCENE

CHARLES  
Brother!

IRISH MEN, FIRE -

Irish Man #2 stares into the FIRE. He slowly raises his head to see Richard with his head within his chest standing behind Irish Man #3 and Irish Man #4 as they converse with one another.

CU RICHARD - TILTS HIS FACE UPWARDS DISPLAYING HIS BLOOD-COVERED FACE. HIS CHEEKS TIGHTEN INTO A SMILE.

IRISH MAN #2  
(Gaelic)  
Taobh thiar daoibh!

IRISH MEN #2 P.O.V. -

Richard pulls out his GREAT-SWORD, hidden within his CLOAK, and with both his hands warped around its HILT, quickly raises it high and stabs downwards, piercing Irish Man #3's neck. BLOOD splashes onto Richard's face.

RICHARD

(roars)

Ahh!

CU IRISH MAN #3 CHEST - SWORD'S EDGE BURSTS THROUGH HIS CHEST PLATE, SWORD RIPS OPEN HIS CHEST.

RETURN TO SCENE

Irish Man #4 begins to rise. Richard pulls his SWORD from Irish Man #3's body and wildly swings with both hands striking Irish Man #4's forehead slicing into his head before getting stuck.

Irish Man #2 with his SWORD raised above his head rushes forward, as Richard struggles to pull his SWORD free.

Irish Man #2 begins to lower his SWORD towards Richard.

SUDDENLY -

A SPEAR pierces Irish Man #2's stomach causing him to stumble backwards.

CHARLES AND FREDRICK -

with his right hand held in the air.

FREDRICK

(yells)

Now we're even!

Charles, Fredrick and fellow English Men rush forward with their SWORDS drawn.

BACK TO RICHARD -

savagely slices through Irish Man's #3 scalp freeing his SWORD.

CU IRISH MAN #3 - BRAINS EXPOSED AS HIS SKULL CAP LAYS NEXT TO HIM.

The remaining Irish Men have risen with their SWORDS drawn and charge towards Richard. Richard clashes SWORDS with Irish Man #5.

RICHARD  
I condemn your soul!

Richard takes hold of Irish Man #5's SWORD with his free hand and slashes his SWORD across the Irish Man's face. The Irish Man struggles to free his SWORD as Richard repeatedly stabs upward with his SWORD.

CU IRISH MAN #5 - EYES BURST FROM SOCKETS.

CHARLES -

ducks as IRISH MAN #6 swings his SWORD. CHARLES thrusts his SWORD stabbing his groin. The Irish Man swings again but Charles blocks his blow and gives the Man a front kick which strikes his groin again. The Irish Man hunches forward.

CU IRISH MAN #6 - HEAD IS QUICKLY PULLED BACK AS A KNIFE'S BLADE SLASHES HIS THROAT.

Fredrick pushes the Irish Man's body to the ground as a pool of BLOOD forms around his head.

5 ENGLISH MEN -

chase the remaining Irish Men as they flee into the Forest.

RETURN TO FREDRICK -

FREDRICK  
I am envious of your brothers' valor!  
(smiles)

IRISH MAN #2 -

slowly crawls backwards while holding Fredrick's SPEAR that is still piercing his stomach.

CU SPEAR - RICHARDS' HAND WARP AROUND THE SPEAR.

Richard forcefully pushes down upon the SPEAR. The SOUND of earth crunching comes from the Spears blade cutting into the ground. Richard pulls his SWORD from his sheath and stands over the Man as he throws his arms into the air.

CU RICHARD - FACE TENSES, A BLACK CLOUD RUNS THROUGH HIS EYES AND A SMILE FORMS.

Richard quickly raises the SWORD and thrusts it, stabbing his chest and slowly pulls it down as the SOUND of his rib-cage cracking is HEARD.

CU IRISH MAN#2 - GURGLES AS BLOOD DRIPS FROM HIS MOUTH.

Richard stabs his SWORD next to the Man and begins to pull apart his RIB CAGE. The SOUND of ribs cracking is HEARD.

RICHARD

Arr...!!

CHARLES (O.S.)

Richard! No brother.

Charles grabs Richard and pulls him from the Irish Man.

CHARLES

This is not who you are!

Richard forcefully takes hold of Charles' shoulders.

RICHARD

Arr...!!

Charles grabs Richard.

CHARLES

Richard! Come back to us!

CU RICHARD - EYES STRAIN TO FOCUS.

CHARLES (O.S.)

It's I, Charles!

CU RICHARD - REALIZES IT'S CHARLES BEFORE HIM.

Sadness washes across Richard's face and he begins to weep.

RICHARD

Forgive me brother.

Richard lowers his head and embraces Charles.

CHARLES

There's nothing to forgive.  
(concern)

Fredrick struggles to pull his SPEAR from the dead Irish Man's corpse. He looks down upon the dead Irish Man and stares at Richard and Charles in disbelief.

CHARLES (cont'd)

Do you still have envy in your eyes  
Fredrick?

INT. RICHARDS' HOUSE - NIGHT

Richard kneels with his hands crossed before the FIREPLACE, its brightness casting shadows across the dark room.

CU RICHARD - PALE, FOREHEAD STEAMED AND SWEATY.

RICHARD

God...

(coughs)

Please grant me the strength  
to confront this darkness that  
consumes me.

Richard stares at the WOODEN CABINET in which he has placed the BLACK BOOK.

CU WOODEN CABINET - LOWER PANEL.

Richard stands and walks towards the CABINET, removes the LOWER PANEL and pulls out the BOX containing the BLACK BOOK.

CU RICHARD - BLACK CLOUD RUNS THROUGH HIS EYES.

Richard kneels before the FIREPLACE and holds the BOX towards the FIRE.

RICHARD (cont'd)

I shall not fear written words.

CU RICHARD - LIPS TWITCH INTO A SMIRK.

Richard opens the BOX and removes the BLACK BOOK. He opens the BOOK and begins to read.

QUICK FLASHBACK -

Richard holds a LIVER within his hands.

END FLASHBACK -

RICHARD (cont'd)

(Latin/English)

Noli adorare me per ignem et sanguis.  
Worship me through fire and blood.

DREAM/VISION -

EXT. OPEN FIELD - NIGHT

Richard stands before a small FIRE holding a CUP. The sky is CRIMSON. He stares within the CUP and sees BLOOD and then begins to drink. Richard walks towards the FIRE and pours the remaining BLOOD onto the FIRE.

We read English subtitles at the bottom of the screen.

RICHARD  
(Latin)  
Vita datur gignere sanguinem.

SMOKE begins to rise in the form of a MAN. He drops to his knees and calls out.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
Beelzebub.

CU RICHARD - TAKES A BITE FROM A HUMAN FOREARM.

Richard turns back to see Rose dismembered laying in the Field.

RICHARD'S P.O.V. -

Smoke in the form of a MAN floats over the FIRE.

RICHARD (O.S.)  
Beelzebub...

END VISION/DREAM -

RETURN TO SCENE -

Richard slams the BOOK onto the Floor and brings his hands to his temples.

RICHARD  
Surely a book can not dement my  
thoughts? Lord...  
(chokes)

CU RICHARD - SALIVA DROOLS FROM HIS MOUTH.

SUDDENLY -

The Front DOOR swings open.

FREDRICK (O.S.)  
Richard!

Fredrick walks through the DOOR carrying a BOTTLE and an OIL LANTERN in either hand.

FREDRICK

Two days since we buried your girls.  
Do not imprison yourself man. Come,  
sit with me and have a drink.

Fredrick stumbles toward the Family TABLE and slams the LANTERN upon it. He takes off his SUGAR LOAF HAT and lays it down as well. Frederick then takes a seat within a CHAIR and takes a long pull from the BOTTLE.

FREDRICK (cont'd)

Sit, before I finish it.  
(smiles)

Richard places the BLACK BOOK in the BOX and rises to his feet.

FREDRICK (cont'd)

Still devoted to the Almighty, I'll  
drink to that.

Fredrick takes another pull.

RICHARD

Yes, though I feel I have become  
altered some how?

Richard takes a seat across from Fredrick and places the BOX down as Fredrick pushes the BOTTLE towards him.

FREDRICK

Death of loved ones will do that my  
friend. I know, for all mine lay  
beneath us.

Richard points a finger towards the ceiling.

RICHARD

Hopefully they're looking down upon  
you.

FREDRICK

Probably not.  
(smirks)  
Though I think of you and your  
brother as my kin.

RICHARD

Very kind of you.

Fredrick points towards the BOX as Richard slowly takes a pull from the BOTTLE.

FREDRICK  
You've become quite fond of that  
book, haven't you?

RICHARD  
(shrugs)  
I just began to read.

FREDRICK  
Let's have a look.

Richard pushes the BOX further away from the two Men.

RICHARD  
Ah, once I've finished I'll describe  
it for you.

FREDRICK  
Go into all the world and preach the  
good news to everyone. That was Mark  
correct?  
(smiles)

CU RICHARD - CHEEK TWITCHES.

RICHARD  
(stutters)  
Mark s-s-s-ixteen.

FREDRICK  
Some believe books hold power, magic  
even.  
(laughs)  
Mum, bless her soul,

Fredrick genuflects. Richard's cheek twitches.

FREDRICK (cont'd)  
told me of the book of Thoth. The  
Egyptians believed it contained  
powerful spells.  
(beat)  
She also told me of the Raudskinna, a  
book of black magic. Heard of it?

RICHARD  
No.

Richard intently stares at Fredrick.

FREDRICK

It was loved by no other than a Danish Bishop, who was able to summon the darkness within its pages. Ah folklore, right Richard?

RICHARD

I believe so.

FREDRICK

(loudly)

For there's only one book we should truly worship!

Fredrick grabs the BOTTLE which is in Richard's hand and leans across the TABLE.

FREDRICK (cont'd)

The one with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

SUDDENLY -

Richard smashes the BOTTLE across Fredrick's forehead causing him to stumble out of his CHAIR as GLASS SHARDS fly across the TABLE.

FREDRICK (cont'd)

Was it something I said?

CU FREDRICK - BLOOD RUNS FROM A GASH ON HIS FOREHEAD.

Fredrick wipes his hand across his forehead and rises as does Richard.

RICHARD

Forgive me Fredrick...I don't...

Fredrick pulls a DAGGER from his BELT and points it at the BOX.

FREDRICK

The book Richard.

RICHARD

I'm sorry but I must learn the nature of it.

FREDRICK

(annoyed)

Of course you do. Can't you see man? There's darkness in that book.

(MORE)

FREDRICK (cont'd)  
As for you, whose faith is so strong  
has been swiftly blinded by it!

RICHARD  
(skepticism)  
I've just begun...

FREDRICK  
(interrupting)  
Destroy it!

RICHARD  
Maybe in time. For now...no.

Fredrick rushes towards the TABLE. Richard quickly seizes his CHAIR and smashes it across Fredrick's back, propelling Fredrick across the TABLE.

Fredrick grabs onto the BOX while his DAGGER still lays within his hand.

FREDRICK  
Mum's stories were true.

SUDDENLY -

Fredrick slides off the TABLE, as Richard pulls upon his legs causing him to crash upon the Floor. The DAGGER slips from his hand as he scrambles to take hold of the BOX.

FREDRICK (cont'd)  
Destroy it.

Richard begins to smash Fredrick's head multiple times against the Floor.

RICHARD  
(enraged)  
Ar...

BLOOD sprays across the Floor from the last whack of Fredrick's forehead, knocking him unconscious. Richard, upon seeing this, stumbles backwards.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
What have I done?

Richard fixates on the BLOOD and swipes his fingers through it. His arm trembles as it ascends towards his mouth.

CU RICHARD - BLOOD-SOAKED FINGERS PRESS LIGHTLY ACROSS HIS TONGUE, HIS EYES DILATE.

Richard leans down and picks up the DAGGER and stares at Fredrick.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHARLES' HOME - NIGHT

Charles, Charlotte with Edmund upon her lap, and Noah all sit at a WOODEN TABLE displaying BOWLS. They are eating STEW with SPOONS.

A FIRE burns within a FIREPLACE as the room is decorated with CABINETS and CUTLERY. CANDLES illuminate the room which reside upon the TABLE and CABINETS.

CHARLOTTE  
I worry for him.

Charlotte places a SPOON full of STEW within Edmund's mouth.

CHARLES  
Give him time. The Holy scriptures  
will guide him through this.

SUDDENLY -

The SOUND of a Loud BANG comes from the entrance DOOR.

CHARLOTTE  
(startled)  
Charles?

The SOUND of two more Loud BANGS come from the DOOR.

NOAH  
(frightened)  
Papa?

CHARLES  
Follow your Mother towards our bed.

Charles begins to rise from his CHAIR.

CHARLOTTE  
Charles.

CHARLES  
Now.

Charlotte, with Edmund in her arm, rises and takes Noah by his hand and pulls him towards their BED which lays in the corner of the room.

Charles walks to a CABINET, opens it and pulls his SWORD from it's sheath and slowly walks to the entrance DOOR.

CHARLES (cont'd)

Who's there?

(beat)

Answer me!

Charles turns his head and intently listens for any movement from outside. He quickly swings the DOOR open, while holding his SWORD in a thrusting posture.

He investigates only to see darkness. He turns his head to see a CLOTH with written WORDS that has been NAILED into the DOOR.

He pulls it from the DOOR and begins to read.

EXT. DIRT PATHWAY/SLOPED ROCKY MOUNTAINSIDE - DAY

Richard, wearing Fredrick's SUGAR-LOAF HAT pulled tight, walks along the Dirt Pathway. The Rocky Mountainside lays to his right. He carries a CLOTH KNAPSACK, a QUIVER full of ARROWS and his BOW across his back. His SWORD is attached to his BELT.

CHARLES (V.O.)

Dear Brother, forgive me for I leave in haste. This land has brought me only misery and death and I do not wish to have my sorrow wash over you and yours.

In the far-off distance stands the IRISH SEA, three VESSELS float across its waters. A BIRLINN VESSEL is ported upon the SHORE.

CHARLES (V.O.)

And for that I must endure this suffering alone, do not attempt to follow brother, for he would have it no other way. My land and title are yours. Fredrick and I did not leave on good terms...

QUICK CUT -

INT. RICHARDS' HOUSE - DAY

Fredrick rises from the Floor in a seated position with a hand placed on his BLOODIED forehead.

FREDRICK  
How much did I drink?

RETURN TO SCENE -

Richard continues to walk along the Pathway.

CHARLES (V.O.)  
But inform him, I too believe us to  
be kin. May you seek out what we  
sought to find within this country.  
Your loving brother, Richard.

RICHARD  
God...  
(coughs)

Richard spits SALIVA from his mouth.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
I have tried to be your vessel but  
now you allow this darkness to grow  
within me, please do not forsake me.

Richard begins to genuflect as his arm trembles bringing  
his hand to his chest. He stops when seeing two Men  
approaching.

Two DRUNKEN MEN, 27 and 29, dressed in tattered TROUSERS  
with SWORDS attached to their BELTS and in dark JACKETS,  
walk along the Pathway. They cross paths while Richard  
tries not to make eye contact. The two MEN snarl toward him  
and laugh.

DRUNKEN MAN #1 (O.S.)  
Oi, drop your belongs and we won't  
kill ya.

Richard comes to a stop and places a hand on the hilt of his  
SWORD. He faces the opposite direction of the two MEN, who  
stand 5 feet behind him.

DRUNKEN MAN#2 (O.S.)  
I call the rights to the hat!

CU RICHARD - CLICHES HIS JAW AND CLOSES HIS EYES.

RICHARD  
(shivering)  
Please, leave me be.

The SOUND of the two MEN pulling their SWORDS from their  
BELTS is HEARD.

RICHARD  
 (quietly)  
 Kill them.  
 (shakes head)  
 No.

TWO DRUNKEN MEN -

Drunken Man #1 points his SWORD towards Richard.

DRUNKEN MAN #1  
 Pull your breeches down as well.  
 There seems to be no woman on these  
 shores.

DRUNKEN MAN #2  
 (laughs)  
 You can have the rights to that.

DRUNKEN MAN #2 P.O.V. -

Richard stands still with his back facing the Two Men.

RICHARD -

RICHARD  
 (quietly)  
 Kill them...

RETURN TO SCENE -

The Two Men begin to walk forward. Drunken Man #1 turns to Drunken Man #2 and grabs his crotch.

DRUNKEN MAN #1  
 Ah, that's right. I love when they  
 tighten up with fear!

SUDDENLY -

SWORD'S EDGE stabs into the side of Drunken Man #1's neck.

RICHARD (O.S.)  
 (yells)  
 Forgive me!

Richard turns to see Drunken Man #1 place a hand to his BLEEDING neck as he swings his SWORD towards him. Drunken Man #2 locks up with fear.

Richard dodges and misses Drunken Man #1's blow, he returns with a two-handed swing that strikes his forearm.

The SOUND of bone CRACKING is HEARD as his arm only hangs by his stretched skin, his SWORD falls to the ground.

Drunken Man #2 turns and begins to flee as Richard raises his SWORD over his head with both hands.

DRUNKEN MAN #2  
Mercy! It was all his plan!

Richard's arms shake while his eyes fixate on Drunken Man #2. He stabs his SWORD into the ground.

DRUNKEN MAN #2 P.O.V. -

Richard takes hold of Drunken Man #1's Jacket and forcefully rams his body into the side of Rocky Mountain. Richard's mouth clenches down on his wounded neck and tears flesh off Drunken Man #1's neck.

BLOOD splatters across the Rocky Mountain as Drunken Man #1's legs give out and he falls to the ground.

RETURN TO SCENE -

CU RICHARD - CHEWING AS BLOOD RUNS DOWN HIS MOUTH. A BLACK CLOUD RUNS THROUGH HIS EYES.

EXT. BEACH/VESSEL - DAY

Captain FRANCIS DRAKE, 25, handsome, with brown hair, helps an OLD LADY, 65, tattered clothing, as she ascends a BOARD onto the VESSEL.

Her GRANDSON, 8 and GRANDDAUGHTER, 6, cling to her side upon the BIRLINN VESSEL.

6 SAILORS, ranging in age from 20 to 40 wearing PETTICOATS and BREECHES with WOOLEN STOCKINGS, carry SUPPLIES.

The Old Lady hands Francis a few COINS.

OLD LADY  
It's all I have.

Francis looks down upon his hand and juggles the COINS.

FRANCIS  
It will suffice. The wind is on our backs today, so our voyage shall be kind.

OLD LADY  
Fine gentlemen you are.

Francis leans down towards the Granddaughter and places his hand on her chin.

FRANCIS  
Remember this day, for you are about  
to sail with Francis Drake.

The Granddaughter bites down hard on Francis' index finger. He quickly whips his arm into the air and stands. He examines his finger.

OLD LADY  
Forgive the child, for she is  
frightful of men.

Francis waves them along.

FRANCIS  
Yes, yes, not to worry.

As the Old Lady and Grandchildren begin to walk further down the Ship, the Granddaughter turns and smiles towards Francis who returns with a stern face.

FRANCIS (cont'd)  
Gr...

The Granddaughter quickly turns her head and quickens her pace.

Francis turns around to see Richard standing before him, his eyes are Dilated, and stands in a confident stance.

FRANCIS (cont'd)  
(startled)  
Quiet one you are?

Richards' eyes shine and intently stare at Francis.

RICHARD  
Didn't mean to alarm you, are we to  
set sail soon?

Francis waves his hand to his Crew.

FRANCIS  
We are, I'm not sure about you.

Richard lowers his hand to the hilt of his SWORD.

FRANCIS (cont'd)  
But that can all be remedied with  
some coin.

Francis turns over his hand. Richard releases his grasp of the Hilt and raises his hand to wipe BLOOD off his lips and chin, unnerving Francis.

RICHARD  
I see some empty bows, how's that for  
payment?

Richard walks over to an empty BOW SEAT and begins to take off his BOW, KNAPSACK and QUIVER.

FRANCIS  
Uh, that could work. Do you care to  
know where we sail?

RICHARD  
I see your Men carrying Spanish  
goods, so towards England we sail.  
And that's all I care.

FRANCIS  
Yes! The Spaniards have placed a  
bounty on my head, even worse though  
they call me a pirata. When all I do  
is for Queen and country.  
(smirks)

RICHARD  
Well, good fortune to you.

Richard pulls out the BOX containing the Black Book.  
Francis looks down at Richards BOW and QUIVER.

FRANCIS  
My fortune is growing steadily but  
what is that, if your name is not to  
be remembered?

RICHARD  
Most men are content with peace and  
quiet.

Richard sits upon the BOW(bench) and places the BOX down as well.

FRANCIS  
Not I, my name is to be written in  
the history books.

Richard turns his back to Francis and pulls out the BLACK BOOK from the BOX.

RICHARD

If he wills it, your dreams shall come to fruition.

FRANCIS

A believer and a warrior. I could use such a man. France will be my next destination and they so dearly hate our long bows. With the sight of you, they should certainly give me no troubles.

RICHARD

I only seek solitude and to be left out of others' affairs. This Isle has taken much from me.

FRANCIS

Sorry to hear it, but sail with me and we'll be the ones taking. Surely you mean to make good use of your tools!?

Francis points to the BOW and Quiver.

RICHARD

True...

Richard stands and aggressively gets into Francis' face.

RICHARD (cont'd)

They will be used but only when I desire.

FRANCIS

(gulps)

Now, what you are doing right here, that's impressive. That's what I want to invoke in the hearts of men, when they hear my name.

Richard pinches Francis' cheek.

RICHARD

Make sure you live long enough to make that happen.

FRANCIS

Right.

Francis begins to backpedal and Richard returns to sit on the BOW SEAT and opens the Black Book. Francis walks further down the Deck.

FRANCIS (cont'd)  
Put your full weight into that oar.  
No one sails for free.

Richard smirks and doesn't raise his head from the Black Book.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - NIGHT

A BONFIRE burns and BEEZLEBUB floats above the FIRE.

BEEZLEBUB  
(Latin)  
Sanguis.

RICHARD (O.S.)  
No.

BEEZLEBUB  
Sangius!

RICHARD (O.S.)  
I will not...

BEEZLEBUB  
(interrupting)  
Blood!

An Irish Man kneels before the BONFIRE as Richard stands behind him holding a DAGGER to his throat.

BEEZLEBUB (cont'd)  
(laughs)

Richard slices his throat and BLOOD splashes onto the FIRE. Beezlebub grows larger and laughs.

RICHARD  
No...

FRANCIS (O.S.)  
Mr. Mason.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BIRLINN VESSEL - DAY

Richard sits on the BOW SEAT as the VESSEL glides upon the calm WATER. The Black Book is on his lap as he screams out.

RICHARD

No...!

Francis grabs onto Richards' shoulder.

FRANCIS

Mr. Mason. You alright?

Richard is surprised to see Francis standing at his side.

RICHARD

Yes...

Richard places the Black Book within its BOX.

FRANCIS

Well you've been reading from that book more than you've been pulling on that oar.

RICHARD

I have?

FRANCIS

Yes, and you seemed asleep but yet your eyes were open?

RICHARD

I am awake now.

FRANCIS

Good, for Liverpool is before us.

Francis points towards LIVERPOOL, two VESSELS lay upon its Sandy BEACH. Further back a STONE WALL travels and breaks open to a DIRT ROAD that HOUSES sit against.

A large STONE CASTLE stands behind the Wall with HOUSES encircling it. Also, a BRICK CHURCH looks over more BUILDINGS.

Richard looks at the TOWN with amazement.

FRANCIS (cont'd)

Find yourself a plot and build for this town steadily grows. Twenty-five hundred live there now and the goods I bring, sell for a fine price.

RICHARD  
I shall be just passing through, and  
don't you mean the Queens' goods?

FRANCIS  
She gets her fair share of what I  
tell her I have.  
(smirks)  
My offer of France still stands, for  
life ashore is not distasteful, but  
life at sea is better.

RICHARD  
I like my feet firmly planted.

Richard stands and puts a hand into his Trousers' pocket,  
while Francis takes a step back.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
Gratitude for having me aboard your  
ship.

Richard pulls out his hand and gives Francis 5 Silver COINS.

FRANCIS  
(surprised)  
May life be better on this side of  
the pond.

RICHARD  
Yes, but only if he wills it.

EXT. HIGH STREET/LIVERPOOL - DAY

Richard walks along the DIRT hardened Street, showing his  
discontent while he slowly eats a DRIED FISH. MARKET STALLS  
line the Street with Vendors selling SILK CLOTHING, JEWELRY,  
CURED MEATS, BREAD AND EGGS.

A Crowd of 20 PEOPLE stand before Richard as a Man calls  
out.

MAN (O.S.)  
Last chance to place your bets,  
ladies and gents!

Richard walks towards the Crowd to see two MEN holding onto  
a ROOSTER each.

LEAH JACKSON -

26, attractive, wearing TROUSERS with a SWORD-BREAKER and a DAGGER on either side of her BELT, with BREECHES and a BLOUSE. Her long brown hair is tied back into a ponytail, she walks alongside MARK MATTHEWS, 21, average build, down High Street.

She comes to a sudden stop and looks over towards the enthusiastic Crowd and fixates on Richard.

RICHARD -

face twitches as he fixates on BLOOD that has splashed onto the Street. A Rooster OWNER, 50, weeps as he picks up his dead ROOSTER. The Crowd CHEERS on the Rooster OWNER #2, 40, overweight, as he lifts his victorious ROOSTER into the air.

OWNER#2

(yells)

That's my boy, Pecker!

OWNER#1 -

continues to weep.

LEAH (O.S.)

He lost his cock and his manhood as well, it seems.

Richard turns around to see Leah and Matthew standing behind him.

RICHARD

(surprised)

Indeed, it seems he lost something he held most dear.

LEAH

We all have lost loved ones in this life.

RICHARD

You are not wrong, though some of us have lost more than our cock.

Leah looks at Richard from his feet to his Hat.

LEAH

No place to lay your hat?

Richard tugs on the Sugar-loaf HAT.

RICHARD  
 Perceptive and correct. My stay  
 should not be long as I wish to grow  
 my own crops.

LEAH  
 Farmer? Really?

Leah walks closer to Richard and comes within inches of his  
 face and touches his BOW.

LEAH (cont'd)  
 Surely you would rather have this  
 within your hands than a spade?  
 (smirks)  
 My brother and I are always looking  
 for a good man, one who's well-  
 trained?

RICHARD  
 (nods)  
 It seems this world is constantly at  
 war, but as he leads me to my new  
 home my arms shall be laid to rest.

Leah studies Richard's eyes.

LEAH  
 He? I see no peace in you, only a  
 continuing struggle. One that will  
 follow no matter where you lay your  
 hat.

Leah pushes his HAT off his forehead.

RICHARD  
 Every man struggles.

*Richard looks up.*

RICHARD (cont'd)  
 If he wishes me peace then that's  
 what I'll have.

LEAH  
 Are you sure he's up there Richard?

Leah turns towards Matthew.

LEAH (cont'd)  
 Come Matthew, Wolfric is waiting.

Richard is bewildered, as Leah and Matthew turn and begin to walk away.

RICHARD  
How'd you know my name? I never told  
you.

Leah turns back towards Richard.

LEAH  
(shouts)  
Stick around Richard, you might find  
out.

Leah and Matthew continue to walk away.

RICHARD/BEEZLEBUB  
You must find out.

RICHARD  
She's trouble.

A Black Cloud races through Richard's eyes.

RICHARD/BEEZLEBUB  
(smirks)  
Yes.

EXT. DIRT SIDE-STREET - DAY

Leah and Matthew hastily walk along the quiet, barren,  
Narrow Street which SMALL BUILDINGS hover beside.

MATTHEW  
(laughs)  
Hayes men have gone into hiding,  
cowards!

SUDDENLY -

Leah somersaults forward, as a PIKE'S edge is thrust into  
Matthew's Temple causing his body to stumble into a  
Buildings' WALL. Leah regains her footing and pulls out her  
DAGGER and SWORD BREAKER.

The SOUND of bone-CRACKING is HEARD as the PIKE craters  
Matthew's skull. Its edge stabs into the WALL leaving his  
body erect.

HAYES MAN #1, very tall, broad-shouldered, forcefully pushes  
the PIKE further into Matthew's temple as he steps out from  
a SIDE PASSAGE of the Street.

HAYES MAN #1  
(growls)

TWO of HAYES MEN -

of average builds, walk out another SIDE PASSAGE behind Leah with their SWORDS drawn.

HAYES MAN #2  
Good day witch!

Man #2 swings his SWORD towards Leah as she spins around and extends her arm with the SWORD BREAKER, blocking his blow. She turns her wrist causing Man #2's SWORD to become entangled within the SWORD BREAKER.

HAYES MAN #3  
She's too lovely to be a witch, but  
I'll change that!

Man #3 overhand swings his SWORD. Leah pushes her SWORD BREAKER forward with Man #2's entangled SWORD blocking his blow as the two SWORDS smash together.

Leah raises her DAGGER and stabs Man #3's EYE and then thrusts the DAGGER into his other EYE causing BLOOD to splatter across her face.

LEAH  
Death by a Lady!  
(grins)

SUDDENLY -

Leah's head jerks back as Man #2 has grasped her Ponytail and forcefully pulls. She slices his stomach with her DAGGER as he trips her with his leg causing Leah to fall on her back.

Leah quickly rolls to her side as Man #1's PIKE smashes into the Dirt Road.

HAYES MAN #1  
(groans)

Man #1 struggles to pull his PIKE lodged into the Road.

HAYES MAN #2 (O.S.)  
I'll send your head to your brother,  
bitch!

Man #2 holds his SWORD above his head with both hands.

LEAH -

crosses her DAGGER and SWORD-BREAKER over her face.

LEAH'S P.O.V. -

HAYES MAN #2  
(yells)

An ARROW enters Man #2's mouth causing his head to jerk backwards as BLOOD splashes from his mouth. TWO more ARROWS strike his chest as he crashes to the ground.

RETURN TO SCENE.

Hayes Man #1 -

pulls his PIKE from the Road and turns to see Richard with his BOW releasing an ARROW. Man #1 dodges but the ARROW strikes his shoulder. Man #1 looks down upon the ARROW and grows angry, he begins to charge Richard.

Richard quickly releases TWO more ARROWS striking Man #1's stomach twice. Man #1's pace slows but he still pushes forward and throws the PIKE at Richard who dodges the PIKE easily.

RICHARD  
Not even close.

Man #1 rushes forward as Richard looks down upon his empty HAND.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
Shit.

Richard throws his BOW to the ground and grabs the HILT of his SWORD.

SUDDENLY -

Man #1's fist smashes Richard's temple, dazing him and causing him to stumble. His body braces against a Building's Wall.

Man #1 wraps both his hands around Richard's neck and lifts him off his feet. Richard grabs his arms and struggles while being choked. Richard is able to push one of Man #1's hand over his mouth and clenches down on his hand, drawing BLOOD.

CU RICHARD - BLACK CLOUD RACES THROUGH HIS EYES.

Richard tears FLESH from Man #1's hand, causing him to release his hand in agony. Richard is able to squeeze his knees to his chest and kicks out with both feet, causing Man #1 to release his grip and stumble backwards as Richard falls on his back.

Richard quickly rises and pulls his SWORD while Man #1 has picked up his PIKE.

HAYES MAN#1

(grins)

Time for the little man to die.

RICHARD

(chewing)

He does not wish that today.

RICHARD/BEEZLEBUB

For you taste too fine!

Man #1 thrusts the PIKE forward, Richard dodges and smashes the PIKE downwards with his SWORD. Richard spins and slashes Man #1's leg. Man #1 twists the PIKE and jabs the HANDLE into Richard's stomach winding him.

Man #1 pulls the PIKE back ready to thrust forward.

SUDDENLY -

Leah slides between Man #1's legs on her back and begins to stab with both her DAGGER and SWORD-BREAKER at his groin.

CU HAYES MAN#1 - AGONY, PAIN.

SUDDENLY -

Man #1's HEAD is sliced off by Richard's SWORD. His BODY falls forward. Leah rises to her feet.

LEAH

Many thanks Richard, I knew you were a talented man.

Richard slides his SWORD inside his SCABBARD and aggressively walks forward and grabs Leah's BLOUSE.

RICHARD

Who were these men? And how do you know my name?!

Leah brings her DAGGER to Richard's throat.

LEAH  
Richard, I thought we'd be friends.

Richard pushes Leah back releasing his grip.

RICHARD  
You will tell me what I want to know.

LEAH  
First I must see my brother. Meet us tomorrow night at the Mermaids Inn. Your questions will be answered.

RICHARD  
How do I know you'll show, that you won't just flee?

Leah moves closer to Richard.

LEAH  
Flee? We don't hide from what we are. Liverpool is ours.

Richard wipes BLOOD off of Leah's cheek and places a finger to his tongue.

RICHARD  
(smiles)  
Tomorrow night then.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DIRT SIDE-STREET - DAY

As Leah travels down the Street she turns to see Richard pulling Hayes Man #1 into a side-passage by his legs.

EXT. BEACH - DAY - LATE AFTERNOON

A small WOOD FIRE burns upon the SAND as the day's sunlight slowly fades. Richard's KNAPSACK, BOW and BOX containing the Black Book lay a few feet from the FIRE.

Richard's back is seen as he fiercely stabs his SWORD into the headless body of Hayes Man #1.

RICHARD  
God, almighty.  
(MORE)

RICHARD (cont'd)  
 (coughing fit/  
 becomes enraged)  
 I ask and I ask! Why do not answer?  
 Have I not given enough for you? You  
 took my wife, my daughter! Why?  
 This is the life you've chosen for  
 me? To desecrate this man's body!?  
 Is it?

Richard looks towards the sky.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
 Answer me!  
 (beat)  
 Then so be it.

Richard throws his SWORD, bends over the Man's chest and pulls back his RIB CAGE and tears out his HEART. Richard tries to resist but the urge is too strong and he takes a bite. BLOOD covers his mouth as he chews. He closes his eyes and immensely enjoys the taste.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
 I have read of you before, Beelzebub.

Richard walks over to the FIRE, kneels and takes the Black BOOK out of the BOX with his free hand. He opens the BOOK.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
 When the Pharisees heard this, they  
 said, this man casts out demons by  
 Beelzebub, the ruler of demons.  
 (beat)  
 Is that what I shall become, your  
 minion, your little devil?

We read English subtitles on the bottom of the screen.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
 (latin)  
 Sanguinem et dabo ignem patrem.

Richard holds the HEART over the FIRE and squeezes. BLOOD drips onto the FIRE. BLACK SMOKE begins to rise and forms into the shape of a MAN, (BEELZEBUB).

RICHARD (cont'd)  
 What is it you desire from me?

BEELZEBUB points further down the BEACH. Richard turns his head as the SKY turns CRIMSON.

EXT. MOUNTAINS BASE - NIGHT

The MOUNTAIN lays behind Richard as a giant BONFIRE burns. He reads from the Black BOOK as Hundreds of Black CLOAKED individuals kneel before him.

Leah dressed in a Black CLOAK pushes his dead wife, Rose, naked, towards him. Richard forces her to her knees.

RICHARD  
We give you blood, now show us life!

CU ROSE - DAGGER SLITTING HER THROAT.

The Cloaked Individuals throw their arms wide.

BLACK CLOAK INDIVIDUALS  
(shout)  
Parde!

RICHARD (O.S.)  
No. No...

INT. MERMAID'S INN - NIGHT

CU RICHARD - EYES CLOSED. HE SLOWLY OPENS HIS EYES.

Richard sits at the back of the INN at a corner TABLE. More TABLES lay before him populated by PATRONS. The SOUND of a FIDDLE is HEARD along with LOUD conversation in the busy Inn.

A long BAR stands to his right with every BAR STOOL sat upon by a PATRON. Two BARTENDERS pour DRINKS while A YOUNG COUPLE dance before FIDDLER AVERY JOHNSON, 20, skinny, red hair, at the Entrance Door of the Inn.

The Entrances' DOOR swings open and WOLFRIC JACKSON, 26, giant of man with a thick beard and short brown hair. He wears a dark DOUBLET with TROUSERS and a SHORT-SWORD hangs from his BELT.

Leah enters behind him with ALCOTT DAVIS, 28, tall, handsome, who travels with a RAPIER on his BELT and MALACHI MALONE, 37, broad-shouldered, heavysset, long brown hair with a long beard to match, that cannot hide his two-crossed SCARS across his forehead.

Patrons go silent as they enter, with Avery coming to an abrupt stop.

AVERY

(bows)

Sir Wolfric, any requests?

Wolfric turns toward Leah.

WOLFRIC

Sir Wolfric, I like that.

Leah stares at Richard sitting at back of the Inn.

WOLFRIC (cont'd)

Not to worry sister, I enjoy making people wait.

Leah continues to stare toward Richard.

WOLFRIC (cont'd)

Ah, yes Avery, could you play the bold soldier?

AVERY

Of course.

Wolfric spreads his arms and looks towards the Patrons and fixates on Richard. The SOUND of a Fiddle playing is heard.

WOLFRIC

(shouts)

Drink! It's too goddamn quiet in here!

Patrons hold their CUPS toward Wolfric and drink. They continue with conversation. Wolfric walks to Richard's TABLE and pulls out a CHAIR as Three Patrons relinquish their BAR STOOLS for Leah, Alcott and Edwin.

WOLFRIC (cont'd)

No drink?

RICHARD

I've had my fill.

Wolfric sits and studies Richard. Malachi turns to face Richard and sternly looks him over as Leah and Alcott converse with one another.

WOLFRIC

My sister tells me you could be of some use.

RICHARD

Did she?

WOLFRIC  
 Yes and if it wasn't for her, you  
 would be bleeding out right now.

RICHARD  
 Really? She never mentioned...

Wolfric turns toward Leah whose back is to her brother.

WOLFRIC  
 (interrupting)  
 Yes, yes.  
 (faces Richard)  
 She said you have a way with your  
 bow. What I want to know is, why  
 help at all? One of Hayes' spies,  
 are you?

RICHARD  
 Hayes? Don't know the man.

WOLFRIC  
 Who said Hayes was a he? She would  
 be a miserable cunt!

Wolfric slams his fist on the TABLE rocking it to one side.

WOLFRIC (cont'd)  
 Her reign is finished!

The Patrons grow quiet. Wolfric waves his hand to the air.

WOLFRIC (cont'd)  
 Not to worry, drink, drink.

Patrons begin conversing again as Wolfric sharply turns  
 toward Leah whose back still faces him.

WOLFRIC (cont'd)  
 I'm sorry, I know how you hate that  
 word.

Richard becomes intrigued at how they communicate.

RICHARD  
 Reign?

WOLFRIC  
 Liverpool is a town of guilds.  
 Whomever controls the guilds, holds  
 its power. And I run this fucking  
 town.

Wolfric turns towards Leah's back.

WOLFRIC (cont'd)

We both do.

Leah gets up from her CHAIR with Two Mugs and walks towards Richard's TABLE.

LEAH

Yes Richard, God granted me a special gift.

Richard's face twitches as Leah places the MUGS on the TABLE and pulls a CHAIR over and sits.

LEAH (cont'd)

Though it is stronger with my brother, we were born minutes apart.

WOLFRIC

So there is no need to be untruthful with us.

(beat)

You hold the appearance of an everyday fellow.

LEAH

But darkness clouds your thoughts.

WOLFRIC

We could both prosper from a mutual agreement.

RICHARD

Agreement?

LEAH

You can fulfill your needs.

WOLFRIC

And dispose of this bitch for us.

LEAH

For which you will be rewarded.

WOLFRIC

And we both walk away with our spoils.

RICHARD

Yes, it is true, I might carry a darkness with me but you should know I would not dispose of a lady.

LEAH  
 (laughs)  
 Lady?

WOLFRIC  
 She's a sickness that needs to be  
 cleansed.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DUNGEON - DAY

JEFFERY HUGHES, 30, skinny, with brown hair and beard, stands naked, his back BLOODIED with long lacerations. He faces forward against the dirty stone BRICK wall. His arms are spread apart, hanging in the air, tied down with STEEL CHAINS.

The SOUND of a door CREAKING open is HEARD. The Dungeon is sparsely lit by fixated CANDLES burning on its walls.

JEFFERY  
 (shivering)  
 Please, I do not know the answers you  
 seek.

LADY HAYES (O.S.)  
 Nothing to fear son, you just need a  
 woman's touch.

Jeffery begins to pull hysterically on the STEEL CHAINS.

JEFFERY  
 Lady Hayes...  
 (weeps)  
 I know nothing!

LADY HAYES (O.S.)  
 Will you put that in writing?

JEFFERY  
 Of course, I will write whatever you  
 like.

Jeffery frantically moves his head looking for Lady Hayes.

LADY HAYES (O.S.)  
 Only I've run out of ink.

JEFFERY  
 Please Lady Hayes...

SUDDENLY -

Jeffery's head smashes into the BRICK wall. JOY HAYES, 55, tall, heavy-set, graying brown hair tied up, wears an expensive DRESS with fine JEWELRY to match. She holds Jeffery's face against the wall as he struggles.

JOY  
No angels wing, just a swan!

Joy begins to repeatedly stab a QUILL into Jeffery's Ear Canal. Jeffery begins to scream in agony as Joy steps back leaving the QUILL lodged into his ear.

JOY (cont'd)  
(laughs)  
You look hilarious.

Jeffery wildly shakes his head.

JEFFERY  
You filthy whore!

JOY  
My late husband was the whore, my dear son.

A GARROTE (Rope with STEEL on either end) hangs from Joy's right hand.

JEFFERY  
I am not your son!

Joy pulls the Quill from his ear and flings it to the ground.

JOY  
Every soul to enter my home is my child,

Joy loops the GARROTE over Jeffery's neck and squeezes which wrenches his neck and causes him to choke.

JOY (cont'd)  
To do with as I please!

Joy presses her face against Jeffery's and begins to lick his BLOODIED ear, which arouses her.

JOY (cont'd)  
Mr. Hayes was quite fond of this game.

Joy loosens her grip. Jeffery takes large gulps of air.

JOY (cont'd)

Are you?

Joy wraps her arm around his waist and her forearm begins to shake.

JEFFERY

What are you....

Joy sharply pulls on the GARROTE while her other forearm continues to shake.

JOY

Ah... You are.

Jeffery struggles to breathe.

JOY (cont'd)

Almost there?

Joy pulls her arm away from his waist and releases her tight hold of the GARROTE.

JOY (cont'd)

Oh, so sorry, my hand grows tired.  
(laughs)

JEFFERY

You ill bitch.  
(coughing)

Joy flings the GARROTE over Jeffery's neck and throws it to the ground.

JOY

Jeffery, you bore me already.

JEFFERY

Please...I know nothing.

JOY

Oh I know, I just want to play and  
how I do love this game.

Joy bends down and pulls a DAGGER from a SHEATH which has been strapped to her leg.

JEFFERY

What game?

Joy walks over to Jeffery and begins to cut into his back as he shrieks in pain.

CU JEFFERY'S BACK - JOY'S DAGGER SLICES A TRIANGLE INTO HIS BACK AND TEARS FLESH OFF.

JOY

There we are.

Joy stares at the FLESH and licks it.

JEFFERY

Please...enough, no more...

JOY

Oh, not yet Jeffery, not yet.

Joy holds the piece of FLESH before Jeffery's mouth.

JEFFERY

No...no.

Jeffery whips his head, hiding his face. Joy stabs his back with the DAGGER leaving it in place and forcefully grabs his face.

JOY

Eat, or I'll carve out your eye and you'll be eating that instead.

Jeffery slowly opens his mouth and Joy pushes the FLESH into it. Joy pulls the DAGGER from his back causing Jeffery almost to spit out his FLESH.

JOY (cont'd)

Don't you dare!

Joy points the DAGGER towards him and places her free hand between her legs.

JOY (cont'd)

Slowly...

Joy continues to rub in between her legs, becoming aroused.

JOY (cont'd)

That's it Jeffery...

Jeffery slowly chews in disgust.

SUDDENLY -

A LOUD BANG is HEARD from the Dungeon's door. Another BANG is HEARD.

JOY (cont'd)  
(annoyed/yells)  
Yes! What is it!?

CARL (O.S.)  
Sorry Lady Hayes, she said she'd only  
converse with you.

JOY  
Alright, on my way.

Joy is disappointed and begins to turn towards the Door.

JOY (cont'd)  
Ah, we could've had something  
special.

Jeffery spits out his FLESH looking relieved.

SUDDENLY -

Joy sharply turns and stabs Jeffery's shoulder and drags the DAGGER to his waist and continues to violently slash his back.

INT. MERMAID'S INN - NIGHT

RICHARD  
Why me?

Richard waves toward Alcott and Malachi.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
Surely you have men who'll follow  
your lead.

LEAH  
Appearances.

RICHARD  
Appearances?

LEAH  
We have just parlayed with Lord  
Stanley. He has informed us to settle  
our grievances, or he'll intervene.

WOLFRIC  
So eyes are on us.

LEAH  
He fails to see the future, to know  
what it takes to keep this town  
alive.

RICHARD  
To stay alive, certain things must  
die.

Leah grabs onto Richard's arm.

LEAH  
Exactly.

Richard and Leah intently stare at one another.

RICHARD  
It will be done.

Leah squeezes Richard's hand and smiles.

WOLFRIC  
Excellent Richard, it must be done  
soon, within a few days.

LEAH  
Yes, Lord Stanley will be leaving for  
Ireland.

WOLFRIC  
He cannot hear of her death from  
there.

LEAH  
He must know it wasn't us.

WOLFRIC  
Our voices shall be heard loud.

LEAH  
Our faces seen.

RICHARD  
I understand, suspicion will not be  
casted.

LEAH  
There shall be suspicion.

WOLFRIC  
But no proof.

Wolfric smirks at Leah whose face goes deadpan.

WOLFRIC (cont'd)  
 Maybe a fire?

RICHARD  
 He likes fires.

LEAH  
 I knew we would be friends Richard.

Leah stands and kisses Richard on his cheek and begins to exit the INN. Wolfric nods his head at Malachi who follows Leah out of the INN. Wolfric pauses a moment looking at the Door.

WOLFRIC  
 Now I trust my sister's judgment, but please don't disappoint me.

Wolfric stands and lightly slaps Richard's face.

WOLFRIC (cont'd)  
 I very much hate being disappointed.

Richard places a hand on the HILT of his SWORD.

RICHARD  
 As do I.

WOLFRIC  
 (smiles)  
 Alcott, take our friend to his lodging and inform him of my plans.

EXT. HIGH STREET/LIVERPOOL - NIGHT

Richard walks a few feet behind Alcott who hastily walks forward on the now quiet Street.

RICHARD/BEEZLEBUB  
 They'll kill you when it's done.

RICHARD  
 I trust her.

RICHARD/BEEZLEBUB  
 Fool.

Alcott stops and turns.

ALCOTT  
 What was that?

RICHARD  
Nothing, but you can tell me more of  
this Hayes.

ALCOTT  
Ah, Lady Hayes, though she's not much  
of that. I can tell you she likes  
her soap.

RICHARD  
Soap?

INT. LADY HAYES HOME - DAY

Joy walks up a WOODEN STAIRCASE holding onto a SWADDLED BABY  
as SUNLIGHT shines through STAINED GLASS WINDOWS.

JOY  
Ah, your mummy didn't love you. She  
even gave all her coin to get rid of  
you.

Joy reaches the top of the STAIRCASE and begins to walk down  
a HALLWAY with WOODEN FLOORING that is surrounded by closed  
DOORS.

JOY (cont'd)  
But I'll get you big and fat.

Joy opens a DOOR.

JOY (cont'd)  
Along with all the others.

DARK BEDROOM -

Joy enters the dark room. A WINDOW is covered by a DRAPE as  
THREE BABIES quietly sleep in their CRIBS. Joy carefully  
places the BABY in an empty CRIB.

She begins to exit the room and places her hand on the KNOB  
of the Door and stands in the HALLWAY.

SUDDENLY -

Joy slams the Door. The SOUND of babies CRYING is HEARD,  
while Joy places a hand over her mouth and laughs.

EXT. HIGH STREET - NIGHT

Richard and Alcott walk along the quiet, empty Street.

ALCOTT

I would slaughter this hag if Wolfric gave me the order.

RICHARD

Um-hmm.

ALCOTT

He must see the affection his sister showers upon me and wants no harm to come to me.

RICHARD

Right.

ALCOTT

Thus is the case to bring you into the affair. Know that I have killed many a man with my blade so if you plan to double cross us.

Richard aggressively turns and stands nose to nose with Alcott.

RICHARD

My word has been given, now details, for your voice begins to annoy me.

ALCOTT

Well that's rather rude.

Alcott waves his hand forward.

ALCOTT (cont'd)

Shall I continue?

RICHARD

You may.

Richard moves and Alcott flinches his shoulders and straightens his back. The two Men continue walking forward.

ALCOTT

Now she has two men and there is a dog to watch for.

RICHARD

Alright.

ALCOTT

Though I have not seen it, I've heard this beast to be quite large.

(MORE)

ALCOTT (cont'd)  
 One man will walk the grounds, the other ought to be inside. I have told you of the wee ones though I could not give you the number.

Richard is becoming annoyed.

One way in, one way out. Neighbors are quite a distance, so there should be no trouble there. She doesn't travel much, most of her affairs are tended to in the home. In my opinion, early or late hours would be best.

RICHARD  
 (annoyed)  
 Address?

ALCOTT  
 Almost forgot.

Alcott reaches into his TROUSERS pocket.

RICHARD  
 Did you.

Alcott pulls out a CLOTH and hands it to Richard.

ALCOTT  
 Map of the place, the address is there. Here we are.

Alcott stops in front of a small two-story BUILDING. It has four WINDOWS and a DOOR with a LANTERN to its side. Alcott unlocks the DOOR and swings it open.

ALCOTT (cont'd)  
 First left, there is a bed, good?

RICHARD  
 Yes.

ALCOTT  
 Not very talkative are you?

Richard walks into the BUILDING and slams the DOOR. Alcott flings out his RAPIER.

ALCOTT (cont'd)  
 (whispers)  
 Dare you, condescend me.

Alcott waves his RAPIER and storms off.

MALACHI -

with a smirk, exits a dark SIDE-PASSAGE as Alcott walks off. He walks to a WINDOW and peers in to see.

RICHARD -

kneels in a trance with the BLACK BOOK on his lap before a small dirty BED. CANDLES burn on SIDE-TABLES. A GLASS MIRROR sits on a CABINET.

EXT. LADY HAYES HOME - NIGHT

CARL SLATER, 40, average build, brown hair, wears a DOUBLET and TROUSERS. A SWORD hangs from his BELT while he stands on STAIRS that lead from the back entrance of the House.

The House is a three-story with multiple WINDOWS on the second and third levels. BRICK wraps around all levels. SHRUBBERY grows near its corners while sod covers the landscape as tall TREES peer out in the distance.

Carl pulls on a hand-rolled CIGARETTE. He exhales and holds the CIGARETTE in front of him.

CARL  
The damned Queen, she wants to put a tax on ye. Says you do damage to me lungs.

Carl takes another pull of the CIGARETTE.

CARL (cont'd)  
Stupid bitch.

The SOUND of shrubbery rustling is HEARD. Carl descends the Stairs to investigate. He draws his SWORD and slowly proceeds to the corner of the House. The SOUND of rustling is HEARD once more, heightening Carl's senses.

Carl rushes around the corner with his SWORD held high.

CARL (cont'd)  
Err...

CARL'S P.O.V. -

Joy spins around startled, she holds onto a STEEL CHAIN LEASH.

RETURN TO SCENE.

JOY  
(angry)  
Have you gone mad Carl!?

Carl backpedals and quickly returns his SWORD to his SHEATH and BELT.

CARL  
Forgive me Lady Hayes, it's late and I heard noises.

JOY  
You know at this time I take Arthur for his nightly peddle.

CARL  
I'm sorry, I should've remembered.

JOY  
You should've, come here!

Carl slowly walks forward and Joy gives him a quick slap across his chin and mouth, BLOODYING his lip.

JOY (cont'd)  
Serves ye right.

Joy grabs Carl by his DOUBLET and pulls him close and aggressively kisses him.

JOY (cont'd)  
Back to your post.

Joy licks her lips, as a relieved Carl walks back to the near Stairs.

CARL  
I need a new line of work.

Carl pulls out a CIGARETTE and places it in his mouth.

SUDDENLY -

A SWORD'S EDGE pushes the CIGARETTE to the Stairs as the SWORD pushes through Carl's mouth, causing BLOOD to spill as he gags.

Richard wears his SUGAR-LOAF HAT along with his BLACK CLOAK.

Richard pulls his SWORD back and brings it underneath Carl's chin and slices his throat.

Richard grabs onto his neck and guides his body closer to the House. Richard cups his mouth and licks the BLOOD off his hand.

INT. JOY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The SOUND of a Man imitating a Dog's "HOWL" is HEARD.

MS - Joy wearing only a BRA rocks her body back and forth as she pulls back on a STEEL CHAIN.

A LANTERN full of CANDLES sits on a TABLE and reflects light off a Vanity MIRROR which stands next to the wall beside Joy.

JOY  
That's a good boy Arthur. You may  
sleep on my floor tonight.

ARTHUR (O.S.)  
(whining)  
RR...RR...

MS - Joy stops as the SOUND of a Floor board CREAKING is HEARD.

INT. JOY'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Richard aggressively walks down the dark Hallway, blowing out CANDLES that are fixated to the walls. He holds his SWORD within his hand.

INT. JOY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Joy, wearing her BRA and PANTIES with a large BELT tied around her waist, slowly walks toward the Bedroom Door. She has the STEEL CHAIN wrapped around one hand.

JOY  
That better not be you Carl! Or  
you'll be taking Arthur's place.

ARTHUR (O.S.)  
(whining)  
Rrr...

Joy turns the KNOB slowly while intently listening. She sharply pulls the Door open.

HALLWAY -

Joy slowly peeks her head into the Hallway and investigates. She sees only ONE CANDLE burning.

JOY

Carl?!

CU JOY - SQUINTS HER EYES AND LOOKS FORWARD.

JOY'S P.O.V. -

Hallway's WALL, darkness, slowly moves to the Floor. A STEEL BUCKLE shines off a BOOT.

SUDDENLY -

Richard pounces forward, thrusting his SWORD while his CLOAK'S HOOD is over his head.

RETURN TO SCENE.

BEDROOM -

Joy holds the SWORD within her hands as she stumbles backwards and Richard pushes forward.

JOY (cont'd)

Assassin Arthur! Assassin!

Richard thrusts his SWORD forward slicing Joy's hands and stabbing her in the shoulder. She crashes into her VANITY MIRROR and TABLE, falling to the floor.

SUDDENLY -

ARTHUR MILLER, 30, tall, chubby, extremely hairy, naked and wearing a DOG MASK (made of Leather) with a COLLAR attached to a STEEL CHAIN, jumps on Richard's back placing him in a Bear Hug, lifting him off the Floor.

Richard flips his SWORD downwards and stabs Arthur's foot. Arthur yelps out in pain and throws Richard into the Wall. Arthur jumps forward.

ARTHUR

(groins)

RR... RR...

Arthur slowly inches forward.

JOY -

crawls toward the Bedroom Door.

BACK TO RICHARD -

RICHARD  
(roars)

Richard violently bites FLESH from Arthur's shoulder. He pushes Arthur back with his SWORD that has GUTTED him. Arthur falls to the Floor.

CU RICHARD - BLOOD RUNS DOWN HIS CHIN AS HE CHEWS, A BLACK CLOUD RUNS THROUGH HIS EYES.

JOY -

reaches the Door.

SUDDENLY -

A STEEL CHAIN wraps around her neck. Richard squeezes the CHAIN as Joy chokes, he leans close to her ear.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
He shall relish the taste of you.  
Though I will be giving your soul to  
his brother.

Richard continues to choke Joy.

INT. STAIRWAY/HALLWAY - NIGHT

HAYES MAN #4, 30, average build, runs up the stairway carrying a SWORD and hastily travels down the hallway to Joy's room.

INT. JOY'S ROOM - NIGHT

HAYES MAN#4 P.O.V.-

Joy's headless and legless body lays in the Doorway. Richard holds Joy's HEAD by the hair placing it in a BLOODIED CLOTHE KNAPSACK.

Richard points his SWORD toward the Man.

RICHARD  
Take me to the children and you may  
live.

Hayes Man #4 looks down upon Joy's body and the deceased Arthur.

HAYES MAN #4

Right.

EXT. FRONT YARD/JOY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Richard walks down the FRONT STEPS holding onto two SWADDLED BABIES as HAYES MAN #4 holds two SWADDLED BABIES as well in the Front Yard.

SMOKE floats above Joy's House as the SOUND of glass shattering is HEARD. SMOKE begins to billow from the WINDOWS.

Richard places the BABIES at the feet of Hayes Man #4.

RICHARD

You never saw me, if you wish to stay  
alive.

Hayes Man #4 nods his head as Richard places the BABIES by his feet.

RICHARD (cont'd)

Find them homes.

HAYES MAN #4

(scared)

How do I do that?

Richard draws his SWORD and points towards his head.

RICHARD

By using that, if you don't, it will  
be in my bag as well.

HAYES MAN #4

Will do.

Richard turns and begins to walk away.

RICHARD/BEEZLEBUB

You should kill them all.

RICHARD

(stern)

No.

INT. MERMAID'S INN - NIGHT

Wolfric, with MUG in hand, sits at a corner TABLE while Leah sits at the BAR facing her brother. The Inn is moderately busy and the SOUND of a fiddle is HEARD.

Alcott hastily enters, rushes toward Wolfric and whispers in his ear. Wolfric takes a pull from the MUG and turns toward Leah.

WOLFRIC

You did tell me.

(beat)

I know what comes next.

Wolfric taps his forehead.

WOLFRIC (cont'd)

And so should you.

Leah stares at Wolfric, deadpan.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Richard savagely bites from Joy's LEG under the MOON'S light surrounded by tall TREES. Richard chews on the FLESH and turns his head and intently listens. He throws the LEG and ushers off.

MALACHI -

steps out behind a TREE.

INT. RICHARD'S LODGING - DAY

Leah kneels beside the BED and pulls out the BOX from beneath it. She places it on the BED and opens it and stares at the BLACK BOOK.

LEAH

Intriguing, why do you care for it so?

Leah takes the BOOK and sits on the BED.

LEAH'S P.O.V. -

Richard stands in the Doorway with his hand on his HILT. His free hand holds onto a BLOODIED KNAPSACK.

RETURN TO SCENE -

RICHARD

It has become a part of me and I it.

Leah begins to turn the BOOKS' pages.

LEAH

I believe it is the only thing that influences. As did another book in your past.

RICHARD

I am not the man I was.

Richard begins to slowly pull on his HILT. Leah, staring at the BOOK, closes it and holds it up for Richard.

LEAH

This made sure of that.

Richard takes the BOOK and holds the KNAPSACK for Leah. She takes it and looks inside and smiles.

LEAH (cont'd)

Well done Richard, well done.

Richard places the BOOK inside the BOX and places it on a SIDE TABLE. Leah drops the KNAPSACK on the floor and rises inches from Richard.

LEAH (cont'd)

I have something to ask of you.

RICHARD

Spoils first.

LEAH

But of course.

Leah reaches behind her back while intently staring at Richard. His eyes focus on her hand. Her arm quickly spins from behind her back, holding a COIN PURSE.

LEAH (cont'd)

Expecting something else?

RICHARD

You never know who you can trust.

She hands the PURSE to Richard.

LEAH

Like my brother, for he wishes you dead.

RICHARD  
And as for you?

LEAH  
(flirty)  
I do not. Not yet anyway.

RICHARD  
Your brother is not true to his word  
but you are?

LEAH  
But of course.

Leah points to the PURSE.

RICHARD  
What do you ask of me?

LEAH  
Bring death to my brother.

Richard paces.

RICHARD  
Your brother? I sensed a strong bond  
between you two.

LEAH  
There once was, but he has forgotten  
how he ascended. Through me!

Leah places her hands on Richard's shoulders.

LEAH (cont'd)  
Do this, before he comes for you. I  
know how to reward those who I call  
friends.

Leah leans in and kisses Richard, who slowly responds and  
kisses her back.

RICHARD  
Let me think on this. For this shall  
be no easy task.

LEAH  
No Richard! You must act now, or  
flee.

RICHARD  
Then act I will.

Leah embraces Richard and they kiss.

LEAH  
Tonight then, I'll make sure he  
leaves the Mermaid full of his  
favorite drink.

RICHARD  
Tonight.

LEAH  
(smiles)  
To new friendships.

Leah and Richard kiss.

EXT. HIGH-STREET - DAY

A HORSE carrying Alcott gallops along High Street as  
TOWNSFOLK walk by. He steers the HORSE to a stop next to  
Wolfric who sits on his HORSE.

ALCOTT  
Am I late?

WOLFRIC  
You are not. Someone should be  
rather shocked today.

ALCOTT  
Yes, indeed.

EXT. RICHARD'S LODGING/HIGH STREET - DAY

Leah exits the BUILDING holding the BLOODIED KNAPSACK. She  
throws her HOOD over her head and quickly walks forward and  
intently looks over both shoulders as she travels through  
the moderately busy Street.

WOLFRIC (O.S.)  
Was it there?

LEAH'S P.O.V. -

Wolfric and Alcott sit upon their HORSES.

RETURN TO SCENE.

LEAH  
It is, Malachi was right and thank  
you for the warning brother.

WOLFRIC  
You are unharmed?

Wolfric pulls Leah upon the HORSE behind him and she hands him the BLOODIED KNAPSACK. He looks inside and smiles.

LEAH  
Of course, no man has resisted these eyes.

WOLFRIC  
You sure it was just the eyes?

ALCOTT  
They are quite beautiful.

Wolfric sternly stares at Alcott and throws the KNAPSACK at him. Alcott awkwardly catches it and feebly smiles at Wolfric.

INT. RICHARD'S LODGING - DAY

Richard takes the Black BOOK out of the BOX and places it in a KNAPSACK. The SOUND of a Door creaking open is HEARD.

RICHARD  
Some new news?

MALACHI (O.S.)  
If you wish to live, come with me.

Richard quickly spins, drawing his SWORD, while Malachi stands in the Doorway.

EXT. RICHARD'S LODGING/HIGH STREET - DAY

Wolfric waves his hand forward while sitting on his HORSE with Leah seated behind him.

LORD STANLEY'S MEN -

4 MEN, dressed in TROUSERS and BREECHES wearing RED DOUBLETs, draw their SWORDS as 2 Men carry MUSKETS. They rush forward and begin to enter the BUILDING.

BACK TO WOLFRIC -

LEAH  
Lord Stanley's Men, working for us.

WOLFRIC  
 How could he not, when informed of  
 the cunts assassin's whereabouts.  
 (beat)  
 Forgive me, sister.

LEAH  
 Forgiven, though you must stop.

WOLFRIC  
 Lord Stanley gets an execution and  
 peace. Us the Guilds.

LEAH  
 And the book.

WOLFRIC  
 Yes, I have informed his men of that.

LORD STANLEY'S MEN -  
 storm out of the BUILDING.

STANLEY'S MAN #1  
 He's not there!

BACK TO WOLFRIC -

WOLFRIC  
 Fuck!

LEAH  
 Indeed brother, indeed.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Richard places his KNAPSACK next to a TREE as Malachi bends  
 over taking in deep breaths.

RICHARD/BEEZLEBUB  
 (whispers)  
 I said they would betray you.

RICHARD  
 You were right. We have traveled far  
 enough.

Richard moves closer to Malachi.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
 How did they come to know of my book?

Malachi is still bent over taking in deep breaths.

MALACHI

Leah sensed...that you held something sacred.

(beat)

And I informed them that you did.

Richard punches Malachi across his forehead knocking him to the ground.

RICHARD

You did what!

Malachi raises a hand towards Richard.

MALACHI

That was before I saw what you were, what you truly possessed, what lives inside you.

RICHARD

And that is?

MALACHI

One of the fallen, one who has rebelled to show us a new path. I have learned many things in my travels and have always been drawn to the sinful.

Richard gives Malachi a helping hand to rise to his feet.

MALACHI (cont'd)

I could of easily given you up and taken the book.

Richard head butts Malachi, which knocks him to the ground. BLOOD spills from his nose.

MALACHI (cont'd)

(smirks)

And that is why I didn't. I knew his will had grown strong inside you.

RICHARD

You know nothing.

Malachi rises to his feet.

MALACHI

But I do, and I ask to be your disciple.

Malachi bends on one knee before Richard.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Wolfric rides upon his HORSE as Alcott and four of Stanley's Men follow on HORSE back. Wolfric halts his HORSE as do the following Men.

WOLFRIC  
No sign of them?

ALCOTT  
No Wolfric, should we head back and do another tour of the town?

Wolfric investigates the Forest.

WOLFRIC  
How'd he know we were there?

ALCOTT  
Could he have seen you, Lord Stanley's men?

WOLFRIC  
No, I'm sure all his attention was aimed at my sister.

ALCOTT  
Most definitely.

Wolfric gives Alcott a stern stare.

WOLFRIC  
Malachi?

ALCOTT  
What of him?

WOLFRIC  
Where the fuck is he!?

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Richard and Malachi walk among the TREES.

MALACHI  
They will come for you, those two are wild cats constantly looking for prey.

RICHARD  
Their reach can only go so far.

MALACHI  
But with Lord Stanley as an ally that  
reach widens. Word will spread to  
the other counties.

CU RICHARD - BLACK CLOUD RACES THROUGH HIS EYES.

RICHARD/BEEZLEBUB  
(smirks)  
Will it.

INT. MERMAIDS INN - DAY

Leah sits at a TABLE accompanied by two of Lord Stanley's Men. The SOUND of a fiddle is HEARD as two BARTENDER'S pour drinks for PATRONS at the BAR and 6 more PATRONS sit at TABLES.

A MAP is displayed on Leah's TABLE with her pointing at it.

LEAH  
He could be as far as Bootle though I  
believe he will travel more inward  
past Knowsley.

SUDDENLY -

An ARROW sticks out of a cheek of Lord Stanley's Man #1, crashing his body on the TABLE. Lord Stanley's Man #2 turns to have two ARROWS puncture his neck and chest.

Leah looks up to see Richard standing by the entrance Door, holding a BOW. The fiddler, Avery, makes a run for the Door and swings it open.

SUDDENLY -

A SWORD cuts through his chest. Malachi, with SWORD in hand, pushes Avery back and he stumbles to the Floor. A panic ensues throughout the Inn.

Richard lets two more ARROWS fly striking the BARTENDERS as they try to flee. Malachi begins slashing at the frantic PATRONS.

LEAH -

flips over the TABLE, takes cover behind it and pulls out her DAGGER and SWORD-BREAKER.

RICHARD (O.S.)  
 (shouts)  
 Leah, I heard you were looking for  
 this.

BACK TO RICHARD -

holding up the Black BOOK as Malachi slashes at PATRONS.

INT. MERMAID'S INN - DAY

Wolfric, with his SWORD drawn, slowly enters the Inn. Alcott holds his RAPIER. They look at the carnage around them. 11 deceased BODIES lay before them.

Wolfric stares at Leah's DAGGER and SWORD-BREAKER stabbed into the BAR.

WOLFRIC  
 The bastard has her.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Two HORSES are tied down to a TREE. A BONFIRE burns, as Leah falls to her knees before it. Her arms are tied behind her back. Malachi stands behind her. She raises her head to see Richard standing on the other side of the FIRE.

RICHARD  
 I want to thank you Leah.

LEAH  
 He should be thanking me.

Richard looks down upon the Black BOOK within his hand.

CU RICHARD - BLACK CLOUD RACES THROUGH HIS EYES.

RICHARD/BEEZLEBUB  
 He does.

RICHARD  
 Through you I have come to see who I can truly trust, who I can believe in. I had wasted most of my life believing in something that never answered. That had me believe that weakness was strength. That good deeds and righteousness would deliverance us from harm, lies!

LEAH  
 (laughs)  
 This is what you've learned from your  
 book. I am glad to see it has  
 claimed you and not I.

Richard nods his head towards Malachi, who places a DAGGER  
 underneath Leah's chin.

RICHARD  
 Are you sure of that?

LEAH  
 I do not fear death, though you  
 should for your soul is damned.

RICHARD  
 No it has been enlightened.

LEAH  
 My brother will never stop, he will  
 find you and your book.

RICHARD  
 Yes, call out to him, for I wish to  
 taste his flesh as well as yours.

Richard opens the Black BOOK and holds it out.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Wolfric and Alcott, along with 20 of Lord Stanley's Men,  
 slowly walk among the TREES with their SWORDS and MUSKETS  
 drawn.

ALCOTT  
 There.

Alcott points towards a FIRE burning in the distance.

WOLFRIC  
 Leah!

Wolfric runs towards the FIRE, Alcott and the Men follow.

WOLFRIC (cont'd)  
 Sister!

Wolfric reaches the FIRE and lays eyes upon a deceased Leah,  
 who's RIBCAGE and stomach is torn open. Wolfric  
 investigates the Forest.

WOLFRIC (cont'd)  
 (shouts)  
 I will find you, monster!  
 (weeps)  
 I will find you.

Wolfric kneels next to Leah.

MALACHI -

sits on his HORSE, hiding behind a TREE. He turns it around and slowly rides to an awaiting Richard on his HORSE.

MALACHI  
 There is too many.

Richard turns his HORSE around and slowly rides off with Malachi following.

EXT. DIRT PATHWAY/HILL - DAY

Richard and Malachi ride their HORSES along the Hill and pathway overlooking the dark sand Beach and Sea.

MALACHI  
 I've always wanted to visit Scotland.

RICHARD  
 As I, though in time we will return to visit our friend Wolfric.

MALACHI  
 Looking forward to it. Hungry?

Malachi nods his head to an approaching OLD MAN, 70, thin, ragged CLOTHING and OLD LADY, 70, thin, decrepit CLOTHING.

RICHARD  
 I could eat. We give you blood, now show us life.

EXT. DIRT PATHWAY/SCOTLAND - LATE AFTERNOON

Wolfric and Alcott lead 5 of Lord Stanley's Men upon the Pathway as the day begins to end.

WOLFRIC  
 Satan's son thought I would not give chase and that will be his downfall.

ALCOTT

Make him suffer slowly Wolfric, for he has taken away the beauty in our lives.

Wolfric's stern face softens with Alcott's words.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

A FIRE burns as Richard sits on a LOG eating a charred FOREARM. Malachi is asleep on the Forest floor while the deceased OLD MAN lays with a gutted stomach and missing Forearms.

Richard throws the FOREARM into the FIRE. He stands and places his BOW within as well.

RICHARD

All the time I've spent with that bow.

(chuckles)

How weak I was. I did not want to see the faces of those I'd harmed but look at me now.

OLD LADY -

terrified and shivering, lays tied down with ROPE, a CLOTHE tied around her mouth.

RICHARD -

walks toward the Old Lady and kneels as she tries to squirm from him.

RICHARD (cont'd)

The fear in your eye's. Oh, how I enjoy it.

Richard grabs the Old Lady's neck.

RICHARD (cont'd)

No bow needed to hunt my prey, for they will walk among me. A deer would run, so that bow would do me good. But you, you are easily fooled and think because I look like you, that I don't cherish your sweet flesh.

Richard squeezes harder down on her throat. The SOUND of branches RUSTLING is HEARD. Richard releases his grip and rises.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
 (whispers)  
 Malachi.

The SOUND of a Horse PACING is HEARD. Richard holds a finger to his mouth and stares at the Old Lady.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
 Not to worry I'll be right back.

CU OLD LADY - FEAR.

EXT. DIRT PATHWAY/FOREST - NIGHT

GEORGE MUNRO, 16, tall, slim, wears a GHILLIE SHIRT with KILT as he holds the reins to his HORSE while embracing LYLE TURNER, 17, slim, wearing KILT and SWEATER.

LYLE  
 Aye, don't tease me George. We won't see each other for weeks.

George leans in and kisses Lyle.

GEORGE  
 Don't worry Lyle for we shall have a lifetime of hiding in this forest.

SUDDENLY -

Richard breaks out of the Forest on his HORSE and onto the Pathway.

RICHARD  
 Well, well, hello there little buggers.

George climbs upon his HORSE.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
 Do your Mummies know what you're up to tonight?

Lyle puffs his chest.

LYLE  
 None of your concern, Englishmen.

GEORGE

Aye, far away from home are you?

Richard rides closer to the two teenagers.

RICHARD

Well I am, but that is none of concern little buggers.

LYLE

Buggers you say? While the pervert watches in the Forest. Back to England with ya.

GEORGE

Aye, back to England.

Richard leans over, close to Lyle, as George moves his HORSE closer to Richard.

RICHARD

Cute you are, defending one another. But take no offense for I have been called worse. I merely try to arouse you for I find the flesh to taste better.

LYLE

What are you on about?

Richard slowly moves his hand to his HILT. George snatches Richards SUGAR-LOAF HAT off his head.

GEORGE

How does the perverts hat look, Lyle?

George puts the HAT on his head.

LYLE

(laughs)

Like an English fairy.

Richard, enraged, draws his SWORD and slices Lyle's chest open.

GEORGE

You bastard!

RICHARD

(smirks)

Still have been called worse.

George ushers his HORSE forward, fleeing form Richard.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
I do love a good chase.

Richard wraps his Hood over his head and gives chase.

GEORGE'S P.O.V. -

Richard with SWORD drawn, is wild eyed.

RETURN TO SCENE.

A bend in the Pathway almost causes George to slide from his HORSE.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
You make this too easy.

Richard reaches the bend in the Pathway.

SUDDENLY -

A ROPE outstretches across the Pathway, sending Richard sharply to the ground as his HORSE gallops forward.

GEORGE -

looks behind and sees an empty Pathway as he continues to ride forward.

BACK TO RICHARD -

rises to one knee.

RICHARD'S P.O.V. -

ALEXANDER BEAN, 18, tall, brown hair, wears a dark CLOTH MASK. He holds onto a large BRANCH.

ALEXANDER  
Nightie, night.

Alexander smashes the BRANCH across Richard's face.

RETURN TO SCENE.

Richard falls onto his back and lays motionless.

ALEXANDER (cont'd)  
Let's see what we have here?  
Cathlynn go see to the horse.

CATHLYNN BEAN, 17, black hair, wearing a dark CLOTH MASK, walks onto the Pathway.

CATHLYNN  
Be quick about it, Alex.

ALEXANDER  
Yes my dear, or should I say wife?

Cathlynn runs off towards the HORSE. Alexander pulls Richard's SWORD from his SCABBARD and throws it to the side of the Pathway. He begins to rifle through Richard's clothing.

SUDDENLY -

Richard grabs Alexander by his shirt and bites him over his left eye, drawing BLOOD. Alexander strikes Richard's face, but Richard is able to wrestle Alexander to the ground and rolls on top of him.

Richard slides his hand to his leg and pulls out a DAGGER.

ALEXANDER'S P.O.V.-

Richard holds his DAGGER above his shoulder. A SWORD protrudes through Richard's chest.

RETURN TO SCENE.

The DAGGER falls from Richard's hand and he slowly slides off Alexander and falls to the ground.

Cathlynn drops her SWORD as Alexander embraces her in a hug.

ALEXANDER (cont'd)  
You are my life! My love, and now my savior.  
(beat)  
He was a strong bastard, he took a good chunk out of me.

Alexander places his hand to his left eye.

CATHLYNN  
We must make haste, someone may be coming.

ALEXANDER  
Right.

Alexander and Cathlynn each take one of Richard's arms and drag him to the side of the Pathway and roll him into BUSHES.

RICHARD'S P.O.V. -

Alexander holds Richard's SWORD in one hand and Cathlynn's hand in the other and run off.

DUST PARTICLES float from Richard's mouth as the night's SKY turns CRIMSON.

RICHARD

(whispers)

I was just beginning to enjoy this  
life. Ask your brother to be kind.

(smiles)

Richard's eyes close.

EXT. DIRT PATHWAY - DAY

Malachi steers his HORSE off the Pathway and rides through BUSHES.

MALACHI'S P.O.V. -

A deceased Richard, his forearm and legs, from the knees down, have been removed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Malachi rides his HORSE onto the beach and investigates. Upon seeing nothing of interest he looks out to the SEA.

The CAMERA PANS OUT to the Sea's water splashing against a small opening to a CAVERN.

THE END.







