

Boy-Man The Barbarian
"The Cult of Skaagh"

written by

Early-Ray Mixon

FADE IN:

SUPER: "Part One: The City of Bones"

EXT. CITY GATE - DAY

Two men stand at the wooden gateway to a walled city, they are blocked by two spear wielding guards in leather armor. The first man, JACE is large and muscular appearing to be in his late twenties to early thirties. He wears a loincloth of fur and carries a large wooden club. The second man, SCOTT is perhaps sixteen and has an athletic build. He wears a basketball jersey and jeans torn at the knees. On the ground, laying on an improvised stretcher is a delirious third man, TONY is bleeding from a shoulder wound. He is perhaps fifteen and wears glasses and dirty clothes.

JACE

But you have to let us in, our friend needs help!

STAVOS THE GUARD

If you don't have the toll you don't get past the gate, barbarian. Now make room for those who have coin!

The guard threateningly points his spear and Jace steps back as a richly dressed man rides through the gate on a horse, tossing coins to the guard without looking. Scott wipes sweat from Tony's forehead.

SCOTT

Your friend's got a bad fever. I don't want to think about what could happen if we don't get him some help.

TONY

I saw the witch doctor and this is what he said.

Jace grips his club tightly as an intense look crosses his face.

JACE

We'll have to fight our way in.

SCOTT

Really? You hate fighting.

EXT. CITY STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Jace picks up Tony and slings him over his shoulder with one hand as he readies his club and charges the two guards and in a swift exchange knocks Stavos out of his way and kills the other guard with a blow to the head.

JACE

Oh, no! I didn't mean to --

Jace's words are drowned out by the sound of Stavos blowing his horn. Scott quickly grabs Jace's hand and pulls him into a run.

SCOTT

Run, you idiot!

The sound of running feet in armor closes in. Jace and Scott duck down an alley.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Another fine mess you've gotten us into.

Soldiers charge into the alley after them, kicking up the puddles of fresh rainwater into a spray sparkling in the morning sunlight. Jace beats them back with his club, fighting like a wild man, taking them on two or three at a time until the weapon shatters on a guard's head, killing him. He lands a crippling kick to another foe as he steals a spear and keeps fighting. Scott stands back muttering incomprehensibly as he makes hand signs. He stares in awe as Jace skewers a man with a spear and lifts him into the air one handed, blood spilling all over him.

JACE

(Roars)

In the puddle of bloody water Scott sees skinny fourteen year old Jace holding up the dead soldier and tossing him aside like a doll. He also spots archers coming around behind them, Scott spins on his heel and breathes fire, burning the archers to a crisp.

SCOTT

Flamaro!

TONY

(laughs) I didn't know you were a dragon, I'm gonna call you toothless.

Dozens of reinforcements close in from either side. Jace looks ready to take them all on. Scott pulls him by the arm.

SCOTT
We gotta get out of here!

Jace kicks a nearby door off it's hinges and dashes into the building with Scott following.

JACE
Come on, this way!

As they run out of the building they find themselves surrounded on all sides by spear wielding guards and archers with nocked arrows. Jace holds his spear as if ready for battle.

JACE (CONT'D)
We can take them.

SCOTT
For the love of god, Jace! I will give you so much money not to get us shot.

TONY
Does anyone else see all these guys with bows? I think we might be in trouble.

Jace reluctantly drops his spear and raises his hands in surrender.

Jace and Scott are lead through the streets in chains. Tony is being carried by guards in the rear. A cabbage hits Jace in the face as they pass jeering peasants. He stops to wipe the vegetable matter from his hair.

JACE
This is not how I wanted to spend my Saturday.

The guards prod him with the spear to keep him marching.

SCOTT
You're complaining? I'm gonna miss my away game at Huntington. There's rumors about those Huntington girls, they say they'll try to wear out the star player on the opposing team. That was gonna be me!

They pass towering granite statues depicting what appear to be local heroes as they approach the stone citadel at the center of town.

JACE
Aren't you dating my sister?

SCOTT
We're not serious.

JACE
Susan will still kill you.

SCOTT
What about you, oh mighty
barbarian? Weren't you dating that
girl in science class? Didn't stop
you from getting laid by that
maiden in the grove last night?

JACE
I wasn't cheating, I only just got
a date with April and it's tonight.
Somehow I don't think i'll make it.

The two are marched under stone arches crowned by human
skulls and into the citadel.

INT. CITADEL - DAY.

Jace and Scott are led through a dark and twisting hall until
they come out in the throne room. KING KOLT, an old man with
a forbidding visage sits on a throne made of human bones. He
rises, glances at a stone tablet handed to him and tosses it
aside where it shatters to be instantly swept up by a
servant.

KING KOLT
Barbarian, Young Sorcerer, kneel
before Kolt The King of Bones!

The guards force Jace and Scott to kneel.

KING KOLT (CONT'D)
You stand accused of forcing your
way into my city and killing six of
my guards between your barbarian
strength and your unholy powers.

JACE
I want a lawyer!

The king of bones spits.

KING KOLT

In this kingdom we do not indulge in backwards notions like lawyers or trial by jury. Justice here is swift and fair. We recognize the truth that might makes right.

SCOTT

I don't think i'm gonna like where this is going.

KING KOLT

For each charge lain against you there will be a battle for your life. In the arena the gods will decide if you shall be forgiven for your crimes. Make them ready for the noonday show.

SCOTT

Nope, don't like it.

The king waves his dismissal and the guards push Jace and Scott to their feet hustling them out as Tony is carried off someplace else.

JACE

What about our friend? Where are you taking Tony?

Jace struggles at his bonds as Tony is carried away. The king signals the guards to halt.

KING KOLT

Your friend shall be made well by our doctors, he's no good to the arena in that shape.

SCOTT

You can't expect him to fight!

The king waves them off. The guards prod them out of the chamber.

EXT. ARENA - DAY.

The cheers and jeers of the audience is like an unending roar in the outdoor arena. Jace and Scott wait in a preparation area, a brick wall separating them from the screaming crowd. NIKO, a flamboyantly dressed man in his twenties shoves some red robes at Scott.

NIKO

Cant go out there dressed in them rags, a sorcerer's gotta look the part. You'll go give em the razzle dazzle after the first fight.

JACE

First fight?

NIKO

Not you, you go last. First we got a kid fight, then the showstopper and we wrap up with the blood and guts.

SCOTT

I'm the showstopper?

NIKO

You and that other magic bloke. Two sorcerer's going at it, we don't see that every day. I'm on, fellas keep your nerve up.

Niko runs out to the center of the arena.

NIKO (CONT'D)

Hear ye, hear ye! This first case presented before the people and the gods. In the red corner young Izaak Baker's son, charged with murdering his own mother in her sleep all for the love of a girl who rejected him. In the blue corner is Eliza the street rat, this half starved little girl is charged with stealing a loaf of bread!

IZAAK, a well groomed youth of maybe seventeen steps into the arena holding a sword. ELIZA is a small, scruffy girl of perhaps thirteen wielding two knives, she stands at the opposite end of the arena.

NIKO (CONT'D)

Whoever arranged this match up doesn't know the meaning of the words fair fight and I love it.

Meanwhile, Scott has put on the over sized red robe, his jersey still visible underneath.

SCOTT

I can't believe this is real, these people are nuts. And i'm fighting next!

JACE

Look on the bright side, you'll be playing an away game after all.

NIKO (O.S.)

That girl moves like a cat on fire!

SCOTT

An away game from hell! There's gonna be someone trying to kill me. I'm actually gonna die out there!

JACE

Full disclosure, a small part of me wants to see that.

SCOTT

Dude, what the fuck?

JACE

We may be stuck in this situation together but I haven't forgotten all the shit you've done to me. You made my life hell. Fuck, were only here because you bashed me into a rock until I bled. So, yeah a very small part of me will be happy if you die.

NIKO (O.S.)

Izaak can not keep up with this little spitfire.

SCOTT

Wow, I didn't know you hated me that much.

JACE

Well, another part of me remembers the friend I used to have in Junior High. Why'd you have to turn into such a bastard?

Scott looks away, he doesn't have an answer.

Izaak swings his sword clumsily and misses Eliza. She dances away and tosses both knives into the older teen's neck. He staggers and falls. Niko raises Eliza's arm.

NIKO

The winner, Eliza the knife queen!

The crowd cheers. Two men drag away Izaak's body and kick it into a ditch.

NIKO (CONT'D)

And now, my good bloodthirsty fellows comes a rare spectacle indeed. Two mighty sorcerers will battle for your amusement. In the red corner, Erasmus the mighty. This sorcerer is charged with the death of a thousand men women and children, he has fought five hundred and fifty battles in this arena and has never taken an injury. At this point we may as well just call him the executioner!

ERASMUS is an older man with a white beard, he wears flowing black robes with stars embroidered in gold. He takes in the cheers of the crowd with a humorless smile.

Scott gulps in terror.

SCOTT

I'm fuuuucked.

NIKO

In the green corner is a young upstart sorcerer who thought he could burn down our city. Three brave guards sacrificed their lives to stop him and he is charged with their murder, Scott The Destroyer!

Jake claps Scott on the shoulder as he walks slowly to the arena.

JACE

Don't get yourself killed out there.

Scott bursts into a sprint as he whips out a dagger.

SCOTT (V.O.)

Can't let him cast a spell!

Scott tosses the the dagger at Erasmus, it stops dead in the air and falls at the sorcerer's feet.

Jace cringes.

JACE

Ooh, critical failure.

Scott chants as he does his hand signs.

SCOTT

Amakalara zathira vosko--

Erasmus holds out his hand and the words die in Scott's throat, he cannot speak.

ERASMUS

None of that. Had you an ounce of proper training I wouldn't be able to silence you with such ease.

Scott tries to speak but nothing comes out. He dashes for the discarded knife but Erasmus flicks his finger and Scott tumbles to the ground as if struck by a fist.

NIKO

The destroyer goes down!

Erasmus picks up the knife and walks leisurely to where Scott groans in pain. He tosses the boy the knife.

ERASMUS

Give it your best shot.

Grabbing the knife, Scott springs up slashing and stabbing. Erasmus does not move, Scott's attacks have no effect.

ERASMUS (CONT'D)

(Laughs) You've got spunk,
in another life I might
have made you my
apprentice. As it is
you'll have to die.

Erasmus snaps his fingers and Scott stands rigid, dropping the knife.

NIKO

Looks like the executioner has bewitched young Scott with his signature puppet master spell. I do not envy this kid.

Erasmus signals for Scott to follow. Scott walks after the old sorcerer in a jerky involuntary motion, terror plain on his face.

ERASMUS

Right here should do. I can't kill you out of hand. The audience expects to see something spectacular in a battle between sorcerers. It's not their fault you are so pathetic.

He indicates the cheering crowd.

ERASMUS (CONT'D)

If it wasn't for them I'd have escaped long ago. To have my work acknowledged by so many is a joy. I may even kill a thousand more men to keep this fun from ending too soon.

Scott looks at Erasmus like he's totally insane.

ERASMUS (CONT'D)

You should consider it quite an honor to die by the spell i'm about to use. It only works on sorcerers, so i don't get to do it often. I'll steal away your magic powers, your life force and even your very soul.

Scott tries to shout something at the sorcerer as he turns away and takes up a mystical stance.

ERASMUS (CONT'D)

Begging for mercy? I have none to give.

There is lightning in the sky as Erasmus raises his hands. One, two, three bolts of lightning strike him and as each bolt strikes a blue aura blazes brighter and brighter around him. His hands spark as he points them at Scott. Suddenly his eyes become unfocused. Erasmus clutches his heart as he stumbles and falls dead. Scott is both horrified and shocked.

SCOTT

Holy shit.

Niko raises Scott's hand in victory.

NIKO

The winner, Scott The Destroyer!

Jace smiles.

JACE

Critical failure.

Jace then looks uneasily at the weapons rack.

NIKO (O.S.)

There will be a short intermission before the final case in this fairest court of law. Take a piss, grab a bite and when you return watch a bloodbath to remember.

Scott comes from the battle area, he is visibly shaking.

SCOTT

That was just luck. God, i was gonna die!

Scott leans on the wall, breathing deeply. He notices Jace staring at the weapons.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

What's with that look? You haven't picked a weapon yet?

JACE

They all look so deadly.

Reflected in the many steel blades mounted on the rack is the scrawny teen Jace.

SCOTT

Well, we are fighting for our lives.

JACE

I killed those men today without a second thought. Something came over me, it happened in the grove too. I slaughtered those cultists like animals.

SCOTT

They practically were. They were burning people alive, would have burned Tony!

JACE

I know! But it's not like role playing. In the game barbarian rage is a superpower but this feeling it overtakes me, makes me do things I would never do.

He passes a hand over the weapons, probing them.

JACE (CONT'D)

Now I have to fight to the death.
If i'm gonna live someone else has
gotta die. And I have to pick the
weapon that will make me a better
killer.

SCOTT

You ought to go with the axe, it's
pretty damn metal.

Jace lifts the axe and tries it out.

JACE

What do you think, living Frazetta
Painting?

Scott shrugs.

SCOTT

You scare the hell out of me.

JACE

Yeah, if my mom could see me now
she'd faint.

Scott chuckles.

SCOTT

It will sound weird but I didn't
give them my full name because I
was afraid my mom would hear about
all of this.

JACE

I know exactly how you feel. A
crazy little voice in my head is
screaming about cameras and the
internet and how my parents are
gonna see. As if that stuff even
exists here.

Niko comes from around the corner.

NIKO

The axe looks good on you,
barbarian. Your battle will begin
shortly, between you and your
opponent it promises to be epic.

Niko runs off to the center of the arena.

NIKO (CONT'D)

And now, the event you've been waiting for. A fight between two warriors of unparalleled prowess. In the green corner is a mighty barbarian who forced his way into our city and slew six of our brave guards. This hulking warrior claims to be only fourteen years old, Boy-Man the Barbarian!

Jace holds his axe up and strides out into the arena. The crowd cheers him on as he lifts the blade higher and breaks into a jog. The girls in the audience throw flowers at him as he passes.

NIKO (CONT'D)

In the Blue corner, a man who came to our city with the foulest of intentions. He tried to steal our women and children, ten guards met their end bringing him down. As foul a creature who ever walked the earth, this slave dealing bastard has already won three matches since his capture, Vangar The Slaver!

VANGAR is a large and muscular middle aged man wearing a wolf's pelt. He carries a long broadsword and wears red face paint. He bears a striking eagle tattoo on his chest. Jace stops parading for the crowd as a cold look comes over him. His EYES are locked on Vangar.

EXT. PLAINS - DAY - FLASHBACK

Jace runs through the foggy plains, confused. There are galloping horses all around ridden by men with red face paint and eagle tattoos on their chests.

SUSAN (O.S.)

Help! Help, somebody please!

EXT. ARENA - DAY

Jace charges Vangar and swings his axe wildly.

JACE

Where have you taken my friends, slaver? Where is my sister?

The slaver deftly dodges the attack, striking out with his broadsword instantly.

BLOOD sprays through the air, Jace is hit in the arm. He steps back in surprise but his enemy presses forward. Jace blocks a blow with the axe only to receive a hard kick in the stomach. He looks up to see himself reflected in the enemy's sword, a bleeding , terrified boy. Vangar spots the reflection in his own blade and smiles as he recognizes the signs of sorcery at work and realizes his opponent is a child.

VANGAR

Did I take your friends little boy?
Did I take your sister?

The slaver brings down his blade, Jace blocks with his axe as he struggles to regain his feet. He pushes the slaver back with his barbarian strength, sending him stumbling several paces away but Vangar is unimpressed.

JACE

Tell me where you sold them!

VANGAR

I sold your friends to be butchered
and eaten by cannibals. I sold your
sister to a whore house after
having my way with her first.

Jace charges again in blind rage, swinging without thought. He is quickly disarmed.

VANGAR (CONT'D)

I see you for what you are,
nothing. A boy put in a man's body
by foul sorcery. But you don't know
how to use it, do you?

Vangar attacks driving Jace back. Jace is fast, blocking almost every blow that comes. But Vangar's flurry of attacks can't be entirely held back and every third or fourth attack draws blood. Jace is afraid, his opponent is experienced and driving his attack closer to his vitals. A nick on his neck. A gash on his side from a narrowly deflected lunge.

Knowing that he has to act, Jace puts all of his strength into his next attack, Vangar blocks but his sword snaps in two as Jace's axe cuts him in half in an explosion of blood and guts.

He staggers back dazed and exhausted as the crowd roars. Niko lift's Jace's hand.

NIKO
The winner, Boy-Man the Barbarian!

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE FROM BLACK.

SUPER: "Part Two: The Dungeon of Debauchery"

Jace and Scott are escorted through the cheering crowd by RANO THE GUARD, a guardsmen not too much older than them. Flowers are thrown at them as they pass. Shortly behind them is the girl Eliza who pays the adulation no mind.

JACE
This is some way of treating a couple of murderers.

RANO THE GUARD
You boys are gonna find out just how enlightened we are in this city.

SCOTT
Where are you taking us?

RANO THE GUARD
Not far, just to the dungeon until your next fight tomorrow.

SCOTT
Why's the girl with us then?

RANO THE GUARD
She deserves the dungeon just as much as you fellows. It just wouldn't be fair if we didn't let her come just because she won her case quickly.

They are led to a lone stone building with a lot of foot traffic.

INT. DUNGEON - DAY

The dungeon looks more like some kind of debauched medieval casino. There are scantily clad dancing girls, gambling tables and free flowing alcohol. There are also a good many well dressed men and women who are obviously not prisoners.

JACE
 What the hell kind of dungeon is
 this?

Scott ogles a nearly naked serving wench carrying a tray of
 drinks.

SCOTT
 My kind of dungeon.

RANO THE GUARD
 (laughs) I said we were
 enlightened. Lets get you murderers
 paid.

JACE
 Paid?

Rano The Guard leads them to a well guarded booth manned by a
 midget named ROSCOE.

ROSCOE
 Rano, you old bastard. I see they
 have you babysitting again.

RANO THE GUARD
 Three winners, you know the drill.

Jace, Scott and Eliza are each tossed a bag of coins. Eliza
 takes some out and gives them back to Roscoe.

ELIZA
 Good job picking my opponent. I'll
 give the plebs a fortnight to
 forget my face and then you find me
 some other lowlife to ice.

She leaves with her money.

RANO THE GUARD
 That girl is cold as stone.

SCOTT
 You mean she fights voluntarily?

Rano The Guard shrugs.

RANO THE GUARD
 It's damned good money if you like
 to gamble with your life.

Roscoe hands them each numbered keys.

ROSCOE

Rooms are on the lower levels. You fellows have the run of the dungeon but try to leave and you die.

Jace and Scott are still looking in confusion at the money and keys when two women approach them. SONJA a beautiful blond of maybe thirty and ROXANNE an alluring brunette of twenty. Roxanne gropes Jace as a greeting and then feels his bicep.

ROXANNE

So, you're the big bad barbarian who killed that nasty slave trader?

Jace nods.

ROXANNE (CONT'D)

I've never had a barbarian before. Come on, don't be shy!

Jace grins like an idiot and waves goodbye to Scott as he lets the woman lead him away.

JACE

I'll see you around, Scott.

Scott pulls Jace back.

JACE (CONT'D)

Dude, what are you doing?

SCOTT

In case you've forgotten, we don't even know if your friend Tony is alive right now. Don't you think we should find out?

Jace's smile vanishes, he hands ROXANNE his key.

JACE

Wait for me.

Scott offers Sonja his key.

SCOTT

If you wanna wait for me, I won't complain.

He is mildly surprised when she takes it. Scott turns to Roscoe.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

You seem to be the one in charge here. Our friend's hurt, you had better tell us where he is before we get mad.

ROSCOE

No need for threats. I suppose you mean the lad they brought in before the matches. He's in the infirmary, first level down.

Roscoe points to the steps. Jace and Scott follow the stairs to the infirmary where they find a fairly oblivious Tony with his arm in a sling and reading over several stacks of scrolls as he takes notes. After a moment he notices them.

TONY

Oh, there you guys are. I was wondering what happened to you. These people are very interesting.

SCOTT

These people made us fight for our lives.

TONY

Real live gladiatorial matches? Amazing, so not only is their writing similar enough to ancient Babylonian cuneiform for me to read but they bare a totally unique culture!

SCOTT

This dork reads ancient Babylonian?

JACE

He likes languages.

SCOTT

Last time we saw you things didn't look so good.

TONY

Their medicine is very advanced for a primitive culture. They actually have penicillin! I've been going over some scrolls from their library and learning all kinds of useful stuff. For instance, it looks like people coming from modern day Earth isn't that rare.

JACE

Very fascinating, very interesting
but there is a hot babe waiting for
me.

Jace runs off.

TONY

Maybe I can tell you some of this.

Scott backs out of the room.

SCOTT

I've actually got a lady waiting
too. Maybe you should pull your
nose out of those scrolls and try
to meet a woman, there are plenty
upstairs.

Tony grimaces and opens another scroll.

TONY

I can't afford to be distracted.

Scott shakes his head as he leaves. In his room he finds
Sonja waiting for him with a very big trunk.

SONJA

It's about time you got here,
sorcerer.

She opens the trunk to reveal an odd assortment of items.

SCOTT

What is all of this?

SONJA

I am a purveyor of rare and
esoteric items, surely of great
interest to a mage of your powers.

SCOTT

Your a sales person?

SONJA

Well(pause)yes.

SCOTT

But I thought you wanted to (beat)
get with me.

Sonja giggles.

SONJA

I'm a businesswoman, honey. You make me an offer I might say yes but I don't come cheap. Forty gold pieces, that's my going rate.

Scott takes a long moment to consider, looking over Sonja's curvaceous body. He shakes his head.

SCOTT

I've never paid for it in my life. But you are awesomely hot, damn.

Sonja directs his attention to her case of oddities.

SONJA

Why not browse my selection as you make up your mind.

Scott looks over the trunk's contents and stops as he sees the words "Western Union" embroidered on a wooden case. He opens the case to see a 19th century double barreled shotgun along with a half empty bandoleer of shells.

SCOTT

Hello, boomstick. I have to have this.

SONJA

Fifty gold pieces.

SCOTT

That's all of my winnings!

SONJA

Sounds like you have a choice to make.

There is a rapid banging on the door. Scott opens to see Tony white as a ghost.

TONY

They just told me I have to fight!

SCOTT

You mean, you didn't know?

TONY

You did!?

Tony takes a swing at Scott and misses by a mile.

SCOTT

Take it easy!

TONY

Take it easy? We're all gonna fucking die tomorrow! I don't care how much magic you have or how strong Jace is, twenty guys is twenty guys.

SCOTT

Twenty guys?

TONY

They told me it was some kind of special honor, the king declared a battle royale. It's between us and the slavers, winning team goes free but because you are a sorcerer and Jace is superhuman they said the only fair fight is one where the odds are against us!

SCOTT

Jesus.

He tosses his coin purse at Sonja.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

We'll need every advantage.

Jace comes into the room, sweaty and smiling.

JACE

That woman is wild, you'll never believe the things she's teaching me! (beat) What's going on?

EXT. ARENA - DAY

Scott, Jace and Tony stand together in the arena, Tony carries the shotgun and wears the bandoleer of ammo. They stare across at a group of twenty armed and murderous slavers.

NIKO

Hear Ye, Hear Ye. Today by order of the king those gathered here shall battle for ultimate freedom and a royal boon. In the red corner we have a murderous barbarian and his demonic sorcerer companion along with their witless servant.

(MORE)

NIKO (CONT'D)

In the blue corner is a small horde of slave catchers, they came here to turn your daughters and mothers into foreign whores but got caught in the act! The gods will decide which of these men not only walks free but is rewarded for their crimes.

As the enemy approaches Jace, Scott and Tony stay together.

SCOTT

Just remember the plan.

JACE

It's my plan, of course I remember it.

Jace readies his axe as Tony aims the shotgun. The slavers charge but are scattered by the smoking, fiery blast from the black powder weapon. Four go down.

NIKO

Holy cow! That is not a normal club.

A few try to flank but Tony unleashes the other barrel on them, killing two as the other three keep coming. Scott mutters and makes hand signs as Jace meets the three slavers with his axe. These men are not the expert combatants that their leader was, they go down easy.

JACE

If any of you tell me where you sold the people you caught on the plains a few days ago i will show mercy.

The remaining eleven slavers look at each other. JACK, their current leader speaks up.

JACK

There's no mercy in the arena, barbarian. Besides, we never went to the plains. Our hunting party split between there and here. Your friends are long gone.

Jace takes a step forward.

SCOTT

The plan!

Jace stops his movement as he spots two more trying to circle around. Tony struggles to reload with one arm but he gets it done in time to let off another blast at the slavers. Three more go down. He fires again and gets one. The remaining slavers try to spread out. Someone hands Niko a tablet and horses are led to the side of the arena.

NIKO

The king has decided that the unknown weapon gives an unfair advantage to the red team. Thus he is granting the blue team mounts and lances.

SCOTT

Well fuck.

The seven slavers mount up and bear down on the trio. Tony fires twice shooting two men off their horses but the third throws a lance. It barely misses but startles him enough to drop the gun. Jace fights the mounted attacker, grabbing the horse with both hands and toppling it and the rider to the ground. Before the rider can gain his legs Jace brings down his axe into his skull, cleaving his head. The remaining riders group up for a charge as Tony tries to pick up the gun.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Flamaro!

The riders and their horses burst into flames and ride screaming through the arena before crumbling to ash.

INT. CITADEL - LATER

Scott, Jace and Tony stand before King Kolt.

KING KOLT

You have one your freedom and a boon from me. I have decided to give you that which you seek , though you may regret it.

SCOTT

Regret?

KING KOLT

My spies see many things. Things like a group of slavers heading into the Forest of Death. There they sold at least some of your friends to the dreaded Cult of Skaagh.

TONY

Not another cult.

KING KOLT

The worshipers of the dark god are not to be trifled with lightly. Years ago my daughter rode too close to their forest and was never seen again. The woods are warded against armies but a small band of fools would be welcomed by the evil cultists as new victims.

JACE

It doesn't sound like you expect us to survive.

KING KOLT

I don't. I expect you who passed my test to kill many of the scum who took my daughter before meeting a glorious end.

TONY

This sounds like a monumentally bad idea. When do we leave?

JACE

You're still hurt.

TONY

You'll need the gun.

SCOTT

We've got a better use for it and you here. If you can find a smith who can make a duplicate of the shells and an apothecary who can make the powder, we'll have a real edge going forward.

Tony sighs, the relief clear on his face.

TONY

I don't want to seem like a coward but i'm glad your making me stay.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE FROM BLACK.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

SUPER: "Part Three: The Cult of Skaagh"

Two men walk through the creepy woods towards a towering temple in the distance. The first man, JACE wields an axe and is now dressed in furs. The second man, SCOTT wears oversized red robes atop a tattered basketball jersey and torn jeans.

JACE

I don't like this. For all we know that crazy old king just sent us here to die.

SCOTT

I don't think so. He wants his revenge as much as we want our friends.

The two approach the looming stone temple. Statues of unnatural beasts adorn the walkway.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

This place is evil, Jace. We have to be careful. There's a wickedness in the air here.

JACE

More of your sorcery? I don't trust it, Scott. Your so called power is too unpredictable. I'll trust my axe instead.

SCOTT

Just watch yourself, barbarian.

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT.

The temple is like a strange and decadent dungeon with erotic paintings on the walls and curtained off chambers.

JACE

Just what kind of god do these people worship?

SCOTT

Keep it in your pants, Jace. We are dealing with a god of evil.

A scantily clad PRIESTESS emerges from behind one of the curtains.

PRIESTESS

We are worshipers of the flesh here, though small minds may call this evil. Welcome to the temple of Skaagh, barbarian.

JACE

We were told that friends of ours were sold to your temple. Where are you keeping them?

PRIESTESS

I have the answers you seek but answers come only to supplicants who can bring ecstasy to a priestess of great Skaagh. Can you meet this challenge?

JACE

Can I ever!

SCOTT

Don't trust this bitch, Jace! She's pure evil.

Jace shoves Scott out of his way.

JACE

You're just jealous. Come on, babe I've got some questions that need answers.

PRIESTESS

Then let us retreat to my chamber. Once I was a princess, be warned that I am very hard to please.

Jace follows the priestess past the curtain. Scott stands up from the ground and dusts himself off.

SCOTT

Jerk. Has a little growth spurt and now he thinks he's such hot shit.

The sound of moaning catches Scott's attention. He peeks past the curtain, Jace and the Priestess are making love. Scott quickly looks away pauses a moment and peeks again.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Damn it, I should be the one in there, not that overgrown geek.

The Priestess heaves, shouting in pleasure. The two break apart and lay on the cushions on the temple floor.

JACE

Now, we've had our fun. Tell me where my friends are.

The Priestess smiles evilly.

PRIESTESS

You are too late, barbarian. While you dallied with me your women were being prepared. Soon they will be ravished by the great Skaagh himself, the hymen of their humanity burst by his celestial cock. They will be reborn as I have been!

Enraged, Jace starts to choke the priestess. Scott rushes in to try and stop him.

JACE

Lying slut! I don't like being played for a fool.

SCOTT

Jace, for the love of god what are you doing?

JACE

She's an evil bitch, just like you said. So, I'm gonna choke the fucking life out of her.

SCOTT

This isn't you, I can't even believe what I'm seeing. You don't have this in you.

The priestess struggles against Jace's meaty grip.

JACE

You don't know what I've got in me. You don't know the real me at all.

Scott points to a mirror, in the mirror we see a scrawny fourteen year old strangling the Priestess in place of Jace.

SCOTT

The real you is right there in that mirror. Does this look like something he'd do?

Startled, Jace releases the Priestess. She cackles like a witch and transforms into a demon.

PRIESTESS

Azhamoraccus! How kind of you to let me speak the magic words of transformation, barbarian. Now I will feast upon your flesh and drink your soul.

The priestess/demon lunges for Jace but his reflexes are godlike. The axe is instantly in his hand and with a single swing he separates the demon's head from it's body. He turns to Scott, fuming.

JACE

Next time, keep your fucking mouth shut. You almost got us both killed.

SCOTT

So what, whenever you feel like icing a bitch in cold blood I should just let you do it?

JACE

Shut up.

SCOTT

You've changed since we got to this dimension. It's like you enjoy hurting people.

JACE

I said, shut up! You don't know what your talking about.

SCOTT

Big bad Jace Boyman, the barbarian. You got pushed around back home and now you feel like it's your turn to do the pushing. So what if a few people have to die as long as you get to feel like a man!

JACE

I don't want to hear that coming from the asshole who was doing the pushing. You tell me I've changed, who changed first? We used to be friends until you joined the basketball team. But you didn't just ditch me, you targeted me, tormented me! Don't forget whose fault it is that we're here.

SCOTT

Maybe I was a bad friend, maybe even a bully but this isn't high school. I've watched you kill people left and right here and you don't even seem to care! You almost enjoy it.

JACE

You think I enjoy it? You think this is fun for me? I kill to keep us both alive and maybe if you weren't so goddamn weak I wouldn't have to be such a merciless bastard.

SCOTT

I hold my own in a fight but i'm not like you.

JACE

That's right, you're a kid sidekick. You hide in the shadows and play with magic tricks while I get my hands dirty cutting men to pieces.

SCOTT

I don't play, none of this is a game.

JACE

You act like it is. You pretend that you don't have blood on your hands when that spell of yours has killed just as many people as my axe!

SCOTT

Your chasing ass and losing your shit at every opportunity while our friends are in chains! Admit it, Jace you like being the barbarian, you never want to go home.

Tears are in Jace's eyes.

JACE

Like it? I cant stand being this
(pause)
muscle bound freak filled with
rage.

(MORE)

JACE (CONT'D)

I can't control my anger, I have to fight just to keep from snapping your neck like a twig. I hate it!

SCOTT

Jesus, Jace.

JACE

I want my own body back! I want to be me again.

Jace falls to his knees. Rotating to the mirror we see Jace's reflection as the barbarian and as we come back around Jace is fourteen again.

SCOTT

Jace, holy shit you're back to normal!

Jace stands up looking at himself in astonishment.

JACE

How? I don't understand.

SCOTT

I don't know, maybe--

His thought is cut of by the sound of a woman screaming followed by melodious chanting.

JACE

Was that Susan?

SUSAN (O.S.)

Get your hands off me you monkey fucking freaks!

SCOTT

Definitely Susan.

PAT (O.S.)

Help, Police, Spider-Man, He-Man, I'll even take Darkwing Duck!!!

JACE

And that's Pat. Come on, we've wasted enough time fighting.

Jace struggles to lift his axe and runs down the corridor toward the sound of the screams and chants. Scott follows.

SCOTT

This is such bad timing.

The duo come to the top of a spiral staircase leading down into the main temple room at the center of which is a pit with writhing tentacles. A column of chanting cultists carries two struggling girls tied to stakes. SUSAN about sixteen, skinny with long red hair. PAT, fifteen and heavysset with short black hair. Both are dressed in some kind of ceremonial gold bikinis.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Wow, Susan filled out. Her body is rockin!

JACE

Dude, that's my sister.

SCOTT

Your hot sister. Man I wish she'd put out.

JACE

Stop talking before I kill you.

Susan and Pat spot the tentacle pit.

PAT

No, no, hall no!

SUSAN

Holy Shit! Holy fucking shitballs!

The HIGH PRIEST at the alter raises his hands.

HIGH PRIEST

Gaze upon our god in all of his magnificence! Soon you who will be his brides will come to know him intimately.

SUSAN

Please just kill me now!

Scott takes Jace by the shoulders.

SCOTT

Jace, you've got to turn back into the barbarian right now! Don't give me any of that crap about not knowing how.

JACE

But I don't know how! I don't know how any of this works, I don't even know how i'm me again. Can't you cast a spell?

SCOTT

Fuck, Jace! You know I've only got the one.

JACE

It's OK, this is just like D&D all we need is a good plan.

SCOTT

D&D, are you out of your fucking mind? Your sister and best friend are about to star in Japanese tentacle porn!

JACE

Listen, this is just like a Waterdeep campaign I played. You distract the cultists with your spell and I'll go down and free the girls.

SCOTT

Dude, that is suicide.

Jace's whole body shakes as he hefts his axe into a battle stance.

JACE

You don't think I know this is fucking suicide? My sister is down there, I've gotta do something. If I die down there, you tell my mom i'm sorry.

Jace runs down the stairs. Scott makes hand symbols for his spell.

SCOTT

We are so fucked. Amakalara zathira vosko ... I'd say a prayer if I wasn't casting a black magic spell. Screw it' i'll pray anyway.

Scott makes the sign of the cross and then resumes his magical hand signs.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Vosufaiious maximus flamaro.

Jace keeps running down the steps.

JACE

I don't want to die. What the hell am I even doing?
(MORE)

JACE (CONT'D)
Sacrificing myself for my
mean bitch sister, that's
what.

The High Priest Signals the cultists to move forward.

HIGH PRIEST
Dearly beloved, we are gathered
here today to witness our great and
powerful master claim these two
supple brides.

PAT
I do not take this dark god to by
my lawfully wedded husband!

SUSAN
Yeah, fuck you and your misogynist
religion!

There is an explosion of fire amid the cultists. We see a
magic symbol superimposed over the flames. As the cultists
scatter Jace charges in.

JACE
Heads up, you heathen monkeys!

Jace axes one of the men carrying his sister in the back. He
struggles to pull his axe free of the dead man as two
cultists draw their blades and converge on him. He blocks a
blow just in time but is driven back by the other attacker.

SUSAN
Jace, you'll be killed!

He kicks one of the cultists into the fire as he spins his
axe at the other.

JACE
Thanks for the commentary, sis.

This time the axe comes free more easily. It doesn't seem as
heavy in his hands as he blocks the attack of another
cultist. In the mirrors that line the walls we see the
barbarian fighting. Jace kills the man in front of him.

PAT
Behind you!

He quickly kills the man behind him. Three more men come at
him.

SUSAN

Is that really my brother?

As he engages the three men four more cultists attempt to overwhelm him. Suddenly we see teenage Jace in the mirrors and in the temple chamber is the barbarian.

JACE

Is that all you've got?

The high priest begins making circular motions with his hands as he chants a spell.

HIGH PRIEST

Infidel, you will pay for this
trespass! Moxuba Dao, Moxuba Dao,
Moxuba, Moxuba, Moxuba!

Scott mimics the same hand motions and repeats the same spell.

SCOTT

I hope this works. Moxuba Dao,
Moxuba, Moxuba, Moxuba!

Two massive stone idols come to life and battle each other.

HIGH PRIEST

You would dare match magic with me,
whelp?

Jace mows through the cultists cutting them all down. Meanwhile the High Priest's statue grows in size and picks up Scott's, readying to toss it at him.

HIGH PRIEST (CONT'D)

Fool, to challenge Skaagh in his
own house is to ask for death!

With a mighty swing of his double bladed axe, Jace cuts off the high priest's head. Both statues fall over and crumble in a cloud of dust and debris. Jace kicks the priest's head into the tentacle pit and cuts Susan and Pat free.

JACE

Lets get out of this goddamned
place.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT.

Jace, Scott, Susan and Pat run down the steps as the temple crumbles behind them.

As they reach the edge of the temple grounds and enter the forest they look up to see a giant tentacle tearing the temple down.

JACE

I think we've made the dark god angry.

SCOTT

Let him have his tantrum. This forest is a mystic prison, he's trapped here forever.

As they turn away from the spectacle Scott is surprised to see Jace is a teenager again.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

You're you again
(pause) again!

PAT

Is this a thing that happens?
Because I could get used to
beefcake Jace.

SUSAN

I hope not. My brother has no
business being that hot.

JACE

I won't let the barbarian rule me
anymore. When I need him he'll be
there but until then...

Jace suddenly has a crestfallen look.

JACE (CONT'D)

Until then, i'll never get laid
again will I? Not in this body!

SCOTT

Who knows? I never thought you
could survive a battle in that
body. In this world nothing is
impossible.

Jace bucks up and straps his axe to his back.

JACE

Come on, we've still got friends
out there in chains. Let's go save
them.

FADE OUT.

TO BE CONTINUED