

THE AWAKENING OF LEGENDS

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. SICILIAN MUSEUM - NIGHT

Gas clears revealing a museum filled with ancient weapons, armor, and tools.

The clearing next shows three guards laying on the floor, unconscious.

Five Foreign Militant Soldiers, wearing gas masks, gloves, and military gear, rush forward. Two soldiers place an explosive device on the far wall. Three soldiers drag the unconscious guards back, away from the bomb.

The two soldiers back away, joining the other three.

One presses a button on a handheld device and the bomb EXPLODES.

As the smoke clears, the Soldiers approach the hole in the floor. They see the entrance to an ancient tunnel.

INT. CLAIRE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

As usual, CLAIRE EINAR works late at night in her expensive office including a large desk and a credenza behind her. Claire is in her 30s, very fit, wears an expensive business suit, with hair and nails fashionable. Her high-rise office overlooks the large city of New York, displaying Christmas decorations. She types away at a keyboard while studying her four monitors. Numerous typed pages scatter her desk. Opera music plays. A digital clock on her desk shows "11:11."

JANITOR (O.S.)

Excuse me.

Claire jumps and CRIES OUT.

CLAIRE

Shit!

She sees an elderly JANITOR, dressed in janitor clothes, sheepishly standing at her office door. He holds a garbage bag.

JANITOR

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to scare you. I wasn't expecting anyone working tonight.

Claire composes herself. She goes back to studying a monitor.

CLAIRE
Just come back another time. I need
to finish this dissertation.

JANITOR
No problem.

Janitor smiles at her.

JANITOR (CONT'D)
Merry Christmas, Ms. Einar.

Claire slowly turns to the Janitor, disturbed. She spots his
name tag: "Mark."

Claire turns back to her monitor.

CLAIRE
(uncaring)
You too.

Janitor watches her furiously work. He slowly turns and walks
away as she continues to type.

INT. TUNNELS - NIGHT

The five Militant Soldiers rush through man-made tunnels. Two
of them carry a solid, long glass container. All of them wear
headlights.

They stop when they come to an old, rotted wooden box resting
on a rock.

SOLDIER ONE, walks up. He opens the lid. He gently lifts a
sword, heavily wrapped in cloths.

Soldier One places it on the stone. He slowly unwraps it,
revealing an old, rusted, crusty sword. But the metal looks
magical in color. He studies it.

SOLDIER ONE
This is it, sir.

The two soldiers with the glass case come towards Soldier
One. One lifts the lid to the case.

As Soldier One rewraps the sword, the edge cuts his finger
through his glove. Startled, he jumps.

Soldier One holds up his finger. There's no pain, no blood
but he feels a surge of power.

SOLDIER ONE (CONT'D)

Whoa.

INT. ANOTHER TUNNEL - NIGHT

ULRIC, a large golden, magical dragon, sleeps curled up. Ulric has four legs, two wings, sharp teeth, armor-like scales, horns and fins on his head, plus a long spiked tail.

His eyes suddenly open.

INT. CLAIRE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Claire SCREAMS out in pain. She holds up her hands. They're covered in green dragon scales.

EXT. GLASTONBURY ABBEY - NIGHT

Two Security Guards talk next to a wall of a ruin. They drink from flasks.

SECURITY GUARD ONE

Bloody hell of a way to start Christmas.

They toast each other, CLINKING their flasks together.

SECURITY GUARD TWO

At least we're getting paid time and a half.

SECURITY GUARD ONE

Maybe we'll see a miracle like a big star or a bunch of angels.

The Security Guards laugh.

The ground RUMBLES, forcing them to grab the wall.

SECURITY GUARD TWO

Earthquake!

Ulric BURSTS from the ground.

The Security Guards SCREAM.

Security Guard One pulls out his phone and records the dragon. Security Guard Two looks at his flask and throws it on the ground.

Ulric looks around. He's confused as he investigates the Abbey in ruins.

Ulric spots the Security Guards. Filled with anger, he YELLS at them.

ULRIC
Where is Excalibur?

Security Guard Two turns on his flashlight and points it at Ulric.

Ulric dodges out of the way of the light beam, not knowing what that is.

Ulric BREATHES fire above their heads, intentionally missing them.

The Security Guards clumsily run away. Security Guard One still records as he runs.

SECURITY GUARD ONE
We're going to be rich.

SECURITY GUARD TWO
We're going to die first.

Ulric continues to YELL.

ULRIC
What have you done?

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM, HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Claire sits on a hospital bed in her own room. Door is closed. Her coat and a pair of leather gloves lay across a chair. Her face shows she's no longer in pain. Claire studies her scaled hands. Her hands open and close, performing normally.

A DOCTOR opens the door and walks in.

DOCTOR
The good news is the tests show
it's not leprosy.
(pauses)
But I have to admit, I've never
seen anything like this.

CLAIRE
(disappointed)
Then what is it?

DOCTOR

I've checked all our medical databases and called a number of doctors. And there's no record of someone's skin becoming scaly as severe as this and happening all at once.

(pauses)

Maybe it's a severe case of dry skin.

Claire, furious and impatient, holds up her hands to the Doctor.

CLAIRE

Dry skin is the best you've come up with?

DOCTOR

You should get tested for diabetes, thyroid disease, or kidney disease. Besides that, I have no idea --

CLAIRE

So, you can't help me.

Claire stands up from the bed, grabbing her gloves. As she puts them on, she scowls at the Doctor.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I'll call one of my clients who runs a very high-end medical facility.

She grabs her coat and opens the door.

DOCTOR

I'm sorry --

CLAIRE

You should be. You've just wasted two and a half hours of my time.

Claire exits and SLAMS the door behind her. The door SHATTERS and falls off its hinges CRASHING to the floor.

Both Claire and the Doctor look shocked. She glances at the Doctor, says nothing, and slowly leaves.

INT. GLASTONBURY ABBEY - NIGHT

Ulric furiously DIGS in the ground.

Nearby lies a sign on the ground that says "Site of King Arthur's Tomb."

The dragon stops when he comes to a black marble tomb.

Ulric easily lifts the lid and gently places it on the ground nearby. Inside are two skeletons, man and woman, dressed in royal clothes with crowns. King Arthur's clothes show a gold dragon symbol while Queen Guinevere's contain a gold lion and a cross.

Ulric GROWLS seeing the sword missing.

Several gun shots RING OUT.

Ulric SCREAMS in pain. He turns and see four scared British Police Officers pointing smoking guns at Ulric.

ULRIC
(angry)
Where is the sword Excalibur?

Ulric BREATHES a burst of fire at the ground, creating a burning barrier between him and the Police Officers.

They CRY OUT in fear and back away.

Ulric motions to the area around him. He SHOUTS.

ULRIC (CONT'D)
Why have you destroyed Glastonbury
Abbey?

POLICE OFFICER ONE talks into his walkie-talkie.

POLICE OFFICER ONE
It's confirmed. The dragon is
alive. We need immediate backup.

Ulric BREATHES fire at the feet of the Police Officers, intentionally not striking them.

The two Police Officers quickly back away, guns still drawn.

POLICE OFFICER ONE (CONT'D)
A lot of back up.

INT. CLAIRE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Claire walks around her very expensive, beautifully decorated apartment with a great city view. Her large screen television shows the news. Claire paces as she angrily talks into her cellphone. She's not wearing gloves.

CLAIRE

Yes, I'm perfectly aware it's Christmas. I used to work for your answering service so I know you can contact a doctor tonight. Do it or I'll make sure you're unemployed by New Year's.

Claire listens.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Yes, I'll hold.

(angry)

Again.

She walks over to an elegant, zero-gravity easy chair. She bends down and grabs a leg with her free hand.

Claire easily lifts the chair high. She smiles.

Claire's attention turns to the TV.

The TV screen shows a video of Ulric rising from the ground.

TV shows the headline: "CNN Latest News: Dragon Discovered at Glastonbury Abbey, England"

ANNOUNCER ON TV

...this video is still under investigation. Many believe it's some Christmas prank.

Claire slowly puts the chair down making sure it returns to the exact spot it came from.

Claire stares at the TV. She shivers as a feeling comes over her. She's confused by what she feels. An urging? A familiarity? A connection?

She exams her free hand.

ANNOUNCER ON TV (CONT'D)

According to the two security guards on duty, the alleged dragon even spoke. It said it is searching for the legendary sword of King Arthur.

Claire pushes a button on her phone to end the call.

She rushes over to her desk where her laptop is open.

She types and up pops a picture of Ulric.

She types again and a picture of the video comes up. It shows the time of the recording: "5:13"

CLAIRE
(whispers)
Shit!

Claire types. The monitor shows flights from New York to London.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

PRESIDENT HENRY ABBOTT rests his head on top of his folded hands that lay across his desk. He's an attractive man in his 40s, prematurely gray, fit, and dressed in a business suit with no tie.

PRESIDENT
Ready or not, here I come.

The President's two young children, RAY, 6, and ANN, 4, GIGGLE off-screen.

President raises his head and looks around. He smiles.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
I think they must have left the room. I'd better call security.

Ray hides behind a chair.

RAY
We're still here, Daddy.

The President smiles harder. He slowly stands up. He slowly walks around, searching for his children.

PRESIDENT
I bet I know where Ray is.

He jumps behind a coach.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
Ha!

President looks disappointed when there are no children hiding there.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
I thought for sure my son would be hiding behind this coach. He always does.

Ray GIGGLES.

President continues his slow search.

A KNOCK at the front door. ANDREW FALCO, an elderly bearded, unkept, sheepish man, calls out from the other side of the door.

ANDREW (O.S.)
Mister President, it's me, Andrew Falco.

PRESIDENT
Thank God. I thought you were my pesty Campaign Manager. He keeps bugging me about the re-election.

President walks towards the curtains.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
Not now, Professor. I'm very busy looking for spies in my office.

Ann speaks out from behind the curtains.

ANN
We're not spies, Daddy.

President walks closer to the curtains.

PRESIDENT
Sounds like Ann but the spy could be disguised as my daughter.

ANDREW (O.S.)
Sir, the package has arrived.

The President jumps at the curtain and grabs Ann behind them.

PRESIDENT
Gotcha.

Ann SCREECHES.

President tickles her as she's still on the other side of the curtains. She LAUGHS loudly.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
Tell me, what secrets have you taken?

ANDREW (O.S.)
Sir...

President stops tickling. Ann walks out from behind the curtains, still LAUGHING.

ANN
How did you see me?

PRESIDENT
Ann, Your feet were sticking out.
As usual.

Ray jumps out from behind the chair.

RAY
You didn't find me this time.

President runs over and tickles Ray. Ray LAUGHS.

PRESIDENT
Aha! Another spy that needs
tickling.

ANDREW (O.S.)
Sir, we really must be going.

President stops tickling. He stands up straight and smiles at his children.

PRESIDENT
Look what you did. You got me in
trouble.

RAY
But I thought the President is
never in trouble.

President smiles.

PRESIDENT
Ray, I'm always in trouble.

The President walks over to his desk and pushes a button. It opens the door.

Andrew stands there, frustrated.

He turns to Andrew.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
Okay, lead on, Professor.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

The President and Andrew converse in an elevator as it descends.

ANDREW

Sir, I hired a foreign mercenary group so there's no attachment to the United States. They can be trusted.

PRESIDENT

Good job. The less people know about this, the better.

ANDREW

And as you ordered, I gave strict instructions for no one to be killed.

PRESIDENT

Good.

Long pause as the President contemplates and Andrew fidgets.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

You think this is the real thing this time?

ANDREW

Yes sir.

PRESIDENT

I mean, you've had some wild ideas before and none have come to fruition yet.

Andrew blushes.

ANDREW

I understand and I appreciate you bringing me on staff.

PRESIDENT

How do you like your title? Chief of Metaphysical Sciences. I made that up.

ANDREW

I do want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to pursue these...

PRESIDENT
Wild goose chases?

Andrew sighs.

ANDREW
Yes sir.

President laughs and slaps him on the back.

PRESIDENT
Hey, I'm having fun chasing these
dreams too. I always thought it
would be cool if there really was a
Big Foot or a Spear of Destiny.

ANDREW
Thank you, sir. It has been
difficult with other White House
staff members making fun of me.

PRESIDENT
Andrew, you should be proud that
you've never given up on this
dream.

ANDREW
For me, proving the fantasy is more
exciting than living the reality.

PRESIDENT
You have to admit, the golden
fleece exploit was a little insane.

They both laugh.

ANDREW
True. A lamb from Minnesota covered
in gold paint was a little far-
fetched.

They laugh again.

INT. WHITE HOUSE BASEMENT - DAY

Elevator doors open. President and Andrew walk out into a
small barren, metallic lobby area. They're under the East
Wing of the White House.

They face two doors: one a hand-reading scanner with the
President seal and a sign stating: "The Presidential
Emergency Operations Center".

In front of the other door is a hand-reading scanner and SERGEANT LOUISE REARDON standing at attention. She's dressed in full Marine, military garb with weapons and a walkie-talkie on her shoulder strap.

Sergeant Reardon salutes the President. President studies her uniform's bars and strips then her name tag: REARDON.

PRESIDENT

At ease, Sergeant Reardon. Have you eaten?

SERGEANT REARDON

(confused)

Sir?

President pulls out an energy bar from his coat pocket.

PRESIDENT

My wife always puts energy bars in my coat pocket since I forget to eat sometimes.

President holds out the bar to Sergeant Reardon. She looks at it, at him, and slowly takes it.

SERGEANT REARDON

Thank you, sir.

He winks.

PRESIDENT

Just don't tell my wife.

Andrew stands next to the scanner.

ANDREW

Over here, Mister President.

The President walks to the scanner, studying it.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Put your thumb, index finger, and little finger up to the scanner.

The President carefully places his three fingers on the scanner as told. A light turns on, scanning his fingers top to bottom. When the scan finishes, the light turns off.

The door opens.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

There you go. Now you're the only one that can enter this room.

PRESIDENT

Cool.

Andrew turns to the Sergeant.

ANDREW

And remember, Sergeant, you are ordered never to look into this room.

SERGEANT REARDON

Yes, sir!

INT. SECURE ROOM - DAY

President and Andrew walk through the opened doorway into a small room.

Besides the door is a red button. Andrew pushes it and the door closes.

Andrew and the President face a large metal table with the glass display from the tunnels. Excalibur, wrapped in the same cloth, is enclosed in the case. A piece of the sword is unclothed showing its magic material. It gives a slight glow.

Thomas gasps as they move closer.

PRESIDENT

So this is it? The legendary sword of King Arthur.

ANDREW

Oh, yes sir. Look where it's exposed. You can see the magical material the sword is made of. This is the sword, all right.

President walks around the case, studying the sword.

PRESIDENT

Wow. I think you finally found one, Andrew.

Andrew proudly smiles.

ANDREW

Yes sir. But we have to be careful. It's rumored to hold great power and so I recommend that no one be allowed to touch it. This is why we needed to find it before anyone else.

Fascinated, the President leans down and studies the sword.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

If this fell into enemy hands, they could use it against us. We can't take a chance on what it's capable of.

PRESIDENT

Agree. This way we lock it away, safe from everyone.

President stands up straight. He pats Andrew on the back.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Good work, Andrew. Let's make sure no one knows about this.

Andrew smiles proudly.

ANDREW

Yes, sir.

President looks back at Excalibur.

PRESIDENT

Wow. The sword of King Arthur...

INT. CLAIRE'S OFFICE - DAY

Claire sits at her desk, gloves on, reviewing her monitors. Four Legal executives stand quietly in front of her, holding tablets with hand-straps and typing with their free hands. They are all dressed professionally. Left to right facing Claire. Legal 1 is a woman, 30s. Legal 2 is a man, 30s. Legal 3 is a woman, 40s. LEGAL 4 is a woman, 50s.

Claire studies the monitors. She talks quickly and the four promptly take notes on their tablets.

She points to Legal 1 without looking up.

CLAIRE

You will monitor all court deadlines, keeping everyone informed, all days and nights including weekends. You will track my entire case load and those assigned to each one.

Claire points to Legal 2.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

You will monitor all emails including updating my outgoing message everyday stating that I am out and who to contact during my absence. You will also handle all incoming phone calls, letters, and deliveries, forwarding them to the appropriate people.

Claire points to Legal 3.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

You will work with all legal assistants and paralegals to make sure their jobs are completed early, especially the research. Being on time is too late and not acceptable.

Claire points to Legal 4.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

You will supervise all the senior partners that are working on my cases. I have thirty-two active cases and I expect this firm to win every one of them. I also have ninety-six clients on retainer. I expect you to reach out to them at least twice a week.

Legal 4 smiles at Claire.

LEGAL 4

Claire, there's one thing you're forgetting. You report to me. I'll take care of everything. Can we go back to our Sunday activities now? I was hosting a pool party.

Claire looks up for the first time, looking at all four of them.

CLAIRE

I am uncertain of how long I will be detained. Do not contact me. I will reach out when I am able. Thank you.

Claire stands, waiting for them to leave. Legal 1, Legal 2, and Legal 3 quickly depart.

Legal 4 walks slowly out, talking without looking back at her.

LEGAL 4

We'll survive without you. Hope you will.

Legal 4 leaves the office, closing the door behind her.

Claire looks around her office, getting angry over her situation.

INT. ANDREW'S HOME, DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Andrew eats dinner with his elderly hardened wife, HEATHER, and his quiet 30ish daughter, KAY. Heather is drunk, loud, and opinionated which scares Andrew and Kay.

Andrew tries to contain his excitement.

ANDREW

I had a very good day at work.

KAY

Good for you, Daddy.

Heather takes a sip of wine from her glass.

HEATHER

What was it this time? Did you discover the psychologist's rock?

ANDREW

It's Philosopher's Stone and no, not yet.

Heather laughs at Andrew.

HEATHER

Of course not. You haven't found any of these folk tales. Not a one.

KAY

(very interested in Andrew)
What happened?

ANDREW

(smiling)
You know I can't talk about what goes on in the White House but I can tell you --

HEATHER

That's just an excuse.

(mocking Andrew)

What happens in the White House,
stays in the White House. Right? I
never know what you do. For all I
know, you don't even work there.

Kay reaches over and touches Andrew's arm.

KAY

I'm sure it's very exciting.

Heather pours more wine in her glass.

HEATHER

Listen to me, Kay, don't be a
dreamer like your dad. He can't see
where he's going with his head in
the clouds.

Heather drinks. Kay looks at her father, concerned as Andrew
lowers his head in defeat and shame.

EXT. GLASTONBURY ABBEY, FRONT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Late at night. The Abbey is closed. The front gate is locked
with a metal chain wrapped around the bars and a padlock
securing it.

Claire walks up to the front gate wearing gloves and an
expensive coat for the cold weather.

She reads a sign says: "Temporarily closed until further
notice."

Claire looks beyond the closed gate seeing yellow police tape
roping off the main path. Further off in the distance
flashlights search the area.

She looks around and sees no one nearby.

Claire shakes her head disbelieving what she is about to do.
She grabs the padlock and squeezes. It SHATTERS in her hand.

She quietly LAUGHS a little in disbelief.

Claire slowly removes the chain, trying not to make a sound.

She listens. She hears no one.

Claire cautiously walks in.

EXT. GLASTONBURY ABBEY - NIGHT

Claire quickly and quietly walks, searching the area.

She sees flashlights searching, concentrating around King Arthur's tomb. She also spots tanks and jeeps filled with British military.

She slips into The Lady Chapel and hides.

Suddenly Ulric drops his camouflage and appears in front of her.

ULRIC
(surprised)
Leodegrance.

Claire jumps back, scared.

CLAIRE
Shit!

Ulric holds his claws out in a peaceful gesture.

ULRIC
I mean you no harm.

Claire studies the dragon in disbelief.

CLAIRE
I come in peace. Please don't eat me.

Ulric smiles.

ULRIC
Of course not. I know who you are. You are of the legendary family of the great King Leodegrance, knight of the Round Table, father of Queen Guinevere.

Claire calms down from the fact that she is having a conversation with a dragon.

CLAIRE
Yeah, right. I've never heard the name "Leodegrance" and least of all from a talking dragon.
(pauses)
I can't believe you're real.

ULRIC
Of course I am. Aren't you?

Claire's anger overcomes her fear. She quickly removes her gloves. She holds up her hands to Ulric.

CLAIRE

As real as these damn hands!

Ulric studies her hands.

ULRIC

Ah. The dragon curse. See, you ARE an ancestor of King Leodegrance. He killed thousands of dragons. So the dragons put a curse on him. And obviously, it followed to his descendants as well. So, when I awoke, so did the curse.

CLAIRE

Don't care about that. Just want my hands back to normal.

ULRIC

The sword can heal you. Help me find Excalibur.

An EXPLOSION occurs on the opposite wall. Ulric turns and sees a tank has just fired at them.

ULRIC (CONT'D)

What is that thing?

CLAIRE

Your death if you don't get out of here. I need you to stay alive.

Soldiers rush forward, weapons drawn.

ULRIC

I also prefer to stay alive and I need you to live as well.

Ulric BREATHES fire at the soldiers and tank.

He quickly grabs Claire and flies through the open roof.

CLAIRE

Oh my God. OH MY GOD!

Soldiers SHOOT at Ulric. Bullets STRIKE him and he SCREAMS.

Ulric brings Claire close to his body to protect her, covering her entire body with his two front claws.

They fly off among the SHOOTING and Claire SCREAMING.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Ulric flies, carrying Claire above a forest. She is scared as she investigates the ground beneath them.

CLAIRE

I can't believe this is happening
to me. Put me down, dragon.

ULRIC

I need your help and you need mine.

CLAIRE

I just want my normal life back
without dying.

ULRIC

And you shall once I retrieve the
sword Excalibur. I cannot do it
alone. I need you, knight.

CLAIRE

I am NOT a knight.

Ulric looks down at the towns brightly lit and roads filled with cars shining their headlights.

ULRIC

Everything looks different. How
long have I slept?

CLAIRE

What year were you last aware of?

ULRIC

(thinks)
Around four hundred, seventy-five.

CLAIRE

You have been asleep for over
fifteen hundred years.

ULRIC

Much has changed. So many lights.
So many noises.
(sniffs)
And what is this smell in the air?
It's like burnt coal.

Claire sees two helicopters rise up behind them with their spotlights searching for Ulric.

CLAIRE

Behind you.

One helicopter's spotlight shines on Ulric.

Ulric dodges away from the light beam.

The helicopters FIRE a series of blasts from their machine guns.

Ulric dodges the blasts, flying in different directions. The bullets miss.

But this action causes the dragon to lose his grip on Claire.

Claire falls.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

NO!

Ulric dives chasing after her with the two helicopters chasing Ulric.

They FIRE again and this time some of them STRIKE the dragon. Blood flies out from his wounds.

Ulric SCREAMS in pain but stays focused on Claire. Claire SCREAMS as she falls.

Ulric finally grabs Claire, close to the ground. He tucks her under his wings.

EXT. WOODED AREA - NIGHT

Ulric and Claire CRASH to the ground and roll, COLLIDING into trees. They finally come to a stop. Ulric's many wounds bleed. The helicopters follow, hovering above the tree line.

Exhausted and severely wounded, Ulric can barely move. With Claire still wrapped in his wings, he becomes camouflaged.

ULRIC

(whispers faintly)

You must be quiet.

The helicopters fly slowly overhead searching. They disappear out of sight. Their WHIRLING SOUNDS grow distant.

Ulric opens his eyes.

ULRIC (CONT'D)

I don't see the metal dragons anymore.

Ulric slowly, painfully rises, letting Claire walk free from under his wings.

CLAIRE

They aren't metal... never mind.
And for the record, you did NOT
save my life just now since YOU
were the one that jeopardized it.

ULRIC

I'm sorry. I'm... so... tired.

Ulric collapses, unconscious.

Claire reaches into her coat pocket and pulls out her
cellphone. It's severely cracked and doesn't respond when she
tries to turn it on. She SHAKES it in anger and CRUSHES it
with her hand.

Claire shivers from the cold and pulls her jacket closer.

She looks at the sleeping dragon and his wounds.

Claire looks around her surrounding wooded area. All she sees
is trees, no sign of civilization.

CLAIRE

Shit.

INT. WHITE HOUSE BASEMENT - DAY

The President and Andrew walk up to Sergeant Reardon at the
front door. They both carry lab tweezers. Andrew also has a
flashlight. President CLICKS his tweezers playfully at the
Sergeant.

Sergeant Reardon stands at attention and salutes.

PRESIDENT

At ease. Louise. Hey, that rhymes.

Sergeant Reardon relaxes.

SERGEANT REARDON

Yes sir.

President uses the tweezers to reach into his coat pocket and
pulls out an energy bar. He hands it to Sergeant Reardon. She
takes it with a smile.

PRESIDENT

Peanut butter okay?

SERGEANT REARDON

Yes, Mister President. Actually,
it's my favorite.

President smiles and winks.

PRESIDENT

So I hear.

He puts his three fingers up to the scanner. Light scans and the door opens.

INT. SECURE ROOM - DAY

President and Andrew walk in. President pushed the red button. The door closes.

Andrew walks over to the case and lifts the lid. The President joins him.

They both feel a slight impression, not sure what it is. Neither says anything to the other about it.

ANDREW

Ready?

The President returns his thoughts to the job.

PRESIDENT

Uhm, ready.

Both of them reach in with their tweezers and unwrap the sword, revealing a very old sword. Most of it is rusted and crusted but parts show the shiny magical metal.

Andrew turns on the flashlight and examines the sword. The light stops at a faint engraving.

ANDREW

There.

Engraving reads "CAST ME AWAY".

PRESIDENT

What does that mean?

ANDREW

Legends say that as King Arthur was dying from a battle, he instructed one of his knights to toss Excalibur back into the lake. To the Lady of the Lake who initially gave it to Arthur.

PRESIDENT

Then what was it doing in Sicily?

ANDREW

Rumor has it that the knight, Sir Bedivere, decided the sword should stay with Arthur. So he buried Excalibur besides Arthur's body, against his king's wishes.

PRESIDENT

I hate when that happens.

Andrew looks at the President.

ANDREW

Let's check the other side.

President and Andrew reach in with their tweezers.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

We must be careful not to damage it.

PRESIDENT

I thought the sword is unbreakable.

ANDREW

It's better to be safe, sir.

They grab Excalibur at different ends.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Gently.

PRESIDENT

I know, I know.
(smiles at Andrew)
You can be such a nag.

They slowly, gently flip over the sword. Andrew shines the flashlight on the sword.

Faint engraving reads: "TAKE ME UP".

They study the engraving.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

And what does that mean?

ANDREW

I... I have no idea.

EXT. WOODED AREA - SUNRISE

Claire wakes up and notices Ulric's wing lying across her to keep her warm. The dragon sleeps.

Pinching it with two fingers, she easily moves the large wing aside.

She rises and stretches.

Ulric wakes up. He groans in pain.

ULRIC
Good morning.

CLAIRE
You're half right.

Ulric inspects his wounds.

ULRIC
What kind of magic is this that can hurt a dragon?

Claire looks around.

CLAIRE
It's not magic. Just modern-day science. A lot has changed in over a millennium. We have weapons that shoot metal. Anywhere from small guns to large missiles your size.

ULRIC
Why would you create those?

CLAIRE
Because the one with the biggest weapon wins.

ULRIC
Wins what?

Claire gets angry.

CLAIRE
I'm not going to give you a current events lesson. I want to go home so let's find this damn sword.

ULRIC
So, you vow to assist me on my mission?

CLAIRE
I don't have a choice.

ULRIC
The irony of a dragon teaming with
a dragon-killing knight. Fate
laughs.

Claire does morning stretching exercises. Ulric studies her.

ULRIC (CONT'D)
Are you well?

CLAIRE
I'm just doing... never mind.
Where's this sword?

ULRIC
I... I don't know.

CLAIRE
Oh, this just keeps getting better.

ULRIC
Forgive me. I realize I have not
introduced myself. I am Ulric, the
keeper of Excalibur.

CLAIRE
Don't care.

ULRIC
And you are...?

CLAIRE
Doesn't matter.

ULRIC
It does to me.

Clair sighs.

CLAIRE
Fine. I'm Claire Einar.

ULRIC
It is an honor, Claire, to meet a
descendant of a knight of King
Arthur. I was decreed to guard
Excalibur. Once the sword was safe,
I slept until I was needed. If
someone touched the sword, I was to
awaken.

(MORE)

ULRIC (CONT'D)

But that did not happen and now, I can't sense its presence. Anywhere.

CLAIRE

Nice job on protecting the sword.

ULRIC

I know.

(sighs)

Much to my shame, I have let King Arthur down. I was given this mission --

CLAIRE

DON'T CARE! I'm hungry and obviously cranky.

Ulric looks disappointed.

ULRIC

But you are a child of knighthood. You are supposed to care. It's part of the Knight's Code of Chivalry created by King Arthur.

Claire stops exercising. She walks up close, points to Ulric's face.

CLAIRE

Do you want to know what my code is? Do what's best for me. And right now, that means I want breakfast.

Ulric stands up awkwardly and angrily raises his voice to her face. They banter back and forth, challenging each other.

ULRIC

The code is: A knight is sworn to serve with valor and faith.

CLAIRE

Stop. I don't want to hear this.

ULRIC

His sword will protect the weak and defenseless.

CLAIRE

We have no sword. Thanks to you.

ULRIC

He will live by honor and for glory.

CLAIRE

"He." The code doesn't say "She".

ULRIC

His heart will love with loyalty.

CLAIRE

Yes, loyalty to myself and the
almighty dollar.

ULRIC

His might will champion against
injustice and evil.

CLAIRE

Yeah, I do that at nine hundred an
hour.

ULRIC

To the end.

CLAIRE

Really don't like that part.

Ulric lies down, tired.

ULRIC

I will teach you the ways. But
first, I need to heal.

CLAIRE

How long will that take?

ULRIC

Maybe one, maybe two weeks. If I
live.

Claire YELLS.

CLAIRE

IF YOU LIVE?!? You have to get me
out of here and cure me of this...
(takes her gloves off)
... this monstrosity.

Claire walks over to a rock the size of a basketball. She
picks it up with one hand.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

But I love this part.

She easily CRUSHES the rock with her hand in many pieces.

ULRIC
(softly)
The dragon curse.

CLAIRE
(holding up her hands)
But I hate this scaled look.

ULRIC
Offense taken.

Ulric thinks.

ULRIC (CONT'D)
There is one way that can heal me
now and aid us in our search.

CLAIRE
I'm listening.

ULRIC
If you mix your lifeblood with
mine, it will create a bond between
us. This shared connection will
make both of us stronger. More
aware of each other. Bonding is
giving something up and gaining so
much more.

CLAIRE
Yuck. You've got to be kidding me.
You want to cut me?

ULRIC
I can scratch a small cut across
your palm. You then put your
bleeding hand on any of my wounds
and our life-energy will flow
together.

CLAIRE
Have you ever done this before?

ULRIC
No, but it should work. Either that
or we stay here for weeks.

CLAIRE
Will it cure my hands?

ULRIC
No. Only the sword can do that.

Claire shakes her head in disbelief. She raises her voice, frustrated.

CLAIRE

Three days ago my life was fine.
Just the way I made it. And now I
have lizard hands, was shot at, am
lost in the woods, and now I have
to share my blood with a make-
believe talking dinosaur.

She looks at Ulric.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

And then once we find the sword,
everything goes back to normal for
me. Right?

ULRIC

This I pray.

Both of them hear soldiers approaching: LOUD VOICES and the sound of CRACKING WOOD.

Ulric looks at Claire, motions to where the noises come from.

ULRIC (CONT'D)

You better hurry up and decide.

CLAIRE

Shit!

Claire cautiously holds her hand out. With one finger, Ulric SLASHES across her palm causing it to bleed.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Ow! Damn it, that hurts.

Ulric brings a bleeding wing with many wounds in front of her.

Claire shakes her head in disbelief. She places her bleeding hand on one of Ulric's wounds.

A glow erupts from this touching, shining bigger and brighter. A stream of the energy flows from their touching, covering both of them. They both simultaneously stiffen the same way.

The glow diminishes revealing Ulric's wounds are gone.

He inspects his body and smiles.

ULRIC

It's working.

(thinks)

I... I feel different. So angry, so alone. Is this what it's like to be human?

CLAIRE

I feel strong, powerful, almost invincible. And yet...

(concentrates)

Worry. Concern. Is this what you feel?

Ulric looks down, feeling shame.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

This bond will go away. Right?

Ulric says nothing.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

(yells)

RIGHT?

With that proclamation, fire bursts from her hands. She YELPS in surprise.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Now what?

The fires remain above her open hands.

ULRIC

The dragon curse. I thought this bonding might help you, but it enhanced it. I'm sorry.

Claire studies the fire. She concentrates and the flames get bigger.

CLAIRE

(angry)

What the hell is going on?

SOLDIER IN THE WOODS (O.S.)

I see something over here.

Numerous BLASTING SOUNDS of guns being fired. Bullets FLY past Ulric and Claire STRIKING the scenery around them.

Ulric BREATHES fire in their direction causing trees and brush to BURST in flames.

ULRIC

Now we fight. No more running.

Ulric leaps through the flames. The sound of battle is loud, with soldiers YELLING, guns FIRING, and Ulric GROWLING.

Claire shakes her head in disbelief. She rushes forward following Ulric. Fire grows from her hands.

EXT. ANOTHER WOODED AREA- DAY

Ulric and Claire BATTLE British soldiers with trees and brush BURNING.

Ulric SHOOTS fire from his mouth. He swings his tail CRASHING on a large number of them. He GRABS soldiers, TOSsing them away. His wings flap down, STRIKING soldiers.

Ulric makes sure to STRIKE with his tail the soldiers closest to Claire, always protecting her.

Soldiers FIRE their guns, HITTING the dragon. Ulric REACTS in pain but keeps fighting.

Claire FIGHTS displaying martial art skills, PUNCHING and KICKING. She SHOOTS her fire from her hands. She LIFTS large rocks and THROWS them at the soldiers.

At one point, Claire is overwhelmed by two soldiers. Ulric grabs both of them and TOSSES them away. She says nothing and keeps fighting.

Finally, Ulric and Claire stand triumphant. All the soldiers lie about the area. Some run away. Trees and brush BURN.

Claire makes her flames disappear. She looks around.

CLAIRE

Wow.

ULRIC

Well done.

CLAIRE

What a rush. That was incredible.

ULRIC

Your knighthood inheritance assisted you.

CLAIRE
Actually, I have a black belt in
mixed martial arts. I had to learn
to defend myself at an early age.

They both hear helicopter SOUNDS approaching.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Time to run.

ULRIC
Agree.

Ulric picks up Claire.

CLAIRE
Hey!

He places her on his back.

ULRIC
Hold on.

Ulric with Claire fly away from the helicopter SOUNDS.

Claire screams.

CLAIRE
Oh my Goooooooooooooohhhhh!

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Ulric and Claire hide inside a ground-level cave on the
backside of a waterfall. Ulric listens for any noises
outside. Claire plays with her flames from her hands.

CLAIRE
Listen. These metal dragons aren't
alive. They're like a, uh, flying
carriages with people inside them.

ULRIC
Interesting. So, where are the
dragons today?

CLAIRE
There aren't any. Dragons are only
mentioned in children's fantasy
books. They've never existed.

Claire looks at Ulric.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Until now.

ULRIC

I must be the last one. Maybe the days of knights, mages, and dragons are gone. No longer needed.

CLAIRE

There's a lot that has changed. We have metal carriages with people inside that move very fast on roads. You'll see a lot of these.

ULRIC

With horses pulling them?

CLAIRE

No horses. They have engines that... anyway, it doesn't matter. So, why is this damn sword so important?

ULRIC

It is a magical sword made by Avalonian elves and forged in dragon-fire. It is unbreakable, extremely sharp, and with great powers, such as healing and killing. Its power can be all-consuming and can be corrupting by creating an uncontrollable lust for even more power.

CLAIRE

Until recently, I would have laughed if someone told me there are magic swords and dragons.

ULRIC

Excalibur was created just for King Arthur. The Lady of the Lake --

CLAIRE

Lady of the Lake? Really? Who makes this shit up?

Ulric continues, ignoring Claire.

ULRIC

The Lady of the Lake gave the sword to Arthur in the beginning. For he was deserving.

(MORE)

ULRIC (CONT'D)

When the king was dying after the great Battle of Camlann, he asked his knight, Sir Bedivere, to return Excalibur to the Lady of the Lake.

CLAIRE

(satirical)

Of course, he did.

ULRIC

But the Lady told Bedivere that Excalibur belongs with Arthur since he is the true owner. She summoned me and commanded me to protect the sword. I watched as the knight buried the king at Glaston Abbey. I made sure Excalibur was laid to rest next to our king inside the tomb.

CLAIRE

Which is why you were at the Abbey.

Ulric looks disappointed.

ULRIC

Somehow the sword was moved without my awareness. I failed my king and my lady. The one and only goal my life was bestowed with...

Ulric looks at the waterfall.

ULRIC (CONT'D)

I worry that Excalibur could end up in the wrong hands.

CLAIRE

I just want it to be in my hands so I can return to normal.

ULRIC

You don't understand. The bearer of the sword could rule kingdoms or kill numerous humans. Don't you care about others?

Claire stands, flames grow bigger.

CLAIRE

Not really.

ULRIC

I'm sorry.

Claire stares at Ulric.

CLAIRE

If I got these powers of fire and strength, what did you get when our blood touched? Anything?

ULRIC

Healing.

CLAIRE

Besides healing.

Ulric thinks. He concentrates.

ULRIC

I... do... feel... something.

Ulric TRANSFORMS from a dragon into a naked man. He has areas of golden dragon scales on his body including parts of his face but none on his hands.

CLAIRE

Wow.

ULRIC

I guess I did get something. I feel so much weaker. So light.

Claire looks at his manhood.

CLAIRE

And so naked. We'll need to get you clothes.

Ulric examines his body. He POKES it.

ULRIC

It's so soft. I'm cold. I've never felt cold before.

CLAIRE

Can you control fire or feel strong like me?

Ulric thinks. He holds his hands out and concentrates really hard.

Nothing. He shakes his head.

Ulric walks over to a large rock. The bottom of his feet hurt walking on the hard rock.

ULRIC

Ow. Why do my claws hurt?

CLAIRE

Your skin is a lot softer as a human. You will need to be careful not to hurt yourself.

ULRIC

I am so vulnerable. Ironically, I feel like I have a HUMAN curse.

CLAIRE

You get used to it.

He GRUNTS and GROANS as he tries to lift the large rock. It doesn't move.

ULRIC

I do not like being a human.

CLAIRE

(studies Ulric)

This is going to work in our favor. Let's go find a town. I'm hungry and you're naked.

EXT. FOREST ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A SMALL TOWN - DAY

Claire walks into a wooded area with a small town behind her. She carries many plastic bags and a backpack. She has her gloves on.

Claire looks around as she continues walking deeper into the forest as the town is no longer visible.

She finally spots the human Ulric. He wears large leaves that cover his front and back private parts, secured with vines wrapped around his waist. He's touching parts of his face.

CLAIRE

Thankfully my wallet stayed intact with my driver's license and credit cards. I purchased everything we need for our trip.

ULRIC

I did not know that the human face is so sensitive.

Ulric pats his ears and winces.

CLAIRE

Stop that.

ULRIC

I saw many horseless carriages
while I waited.

CLAIRE

I hope those horseless carriages
didn't see you. Let's get you
dressed before you're arrested.

Claire sets the bags down. She pulls out clothes, many of
them black and brown in color.

ULRIC

These are not clothes of royalty.
Do I not deserve brighter colors?

Claire hands them to Ulric from a bag.

CLAIRE

Just put them on and then we can go
get something to eat.

Ulric holds up a shirt upside down, studying it.

ULRIC

I am hungry. Do they serve sheep in
this village?

INT. BRITISH PUB - DAY

Claire and clothed human Ulric sit in a booth, eating. Ulric
wears sunglasses and a hat to disguise his scales. He has no
manners and eats vigorously from many plates of food.
Occasionally he bends his head down and eats from the plate
without his hands.

Throughout the meal, he fidgets with his clothes, adjusting
them.

Claire quickly reads information on her new cellphone. On the
table is an empty cellphone box showing she just purchased
the phone. She takes occasional bites of her salad using her
fork.

Ulric talks with his mouth full. He picks up a French fry
from his plate of fish and chips.

ULRIC

This is quite a delicacy. What is
it called?

CLAIRE
A French fry.

Ulric HUMS as he eats it. He continues to study the pub as he eats.

Ulric notices an elderly couple staring at him, disgusted by his appearance and eating habits.

Ulric waves with food on his face and hands. The couple quickly turn back to their meals.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
It says here that King Richard the Lionheart unearthed Excalibur from the tomb and offered the sword to the ruler Tancred of Sicily as a peace offering.

Ulric eats throughout this conversation, talking with his mouth full.

ULRIC
It says all that in your little black box?

CLAIRE
It's magic.

ULRIC
Why did I not sense when the sword was taken?

CLAIRE
You said someone has to touch the sword to awaken you. Maybe they moved it without touching it. It was probably covered up.

ULRIC
Then we must go to Sicily to see this ruler.

CLAIRE
Except this happened about nine hundred years ago.

Claire scrolls through her phone.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Listen to this. Someone recently broke into a museum in Sicily. Nothing was taken but they created a big hole in a wall.

(MORE)

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Authorities have no clue as to who did this or why. They think it was some militant group.

ULRIC

Then we must stop this militant group.

Claire GASPS.

CLAIRE

Oh my God. This happened the same day I got the dragon curse and you woke up.

Claire looks at Ulric.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

They must have touched it then.

Ulric points to her cellphone with a food-covered finger.

ULRIC

Will your magic box show how we find them?

CLAIRE

There's no mention of who this group is and I have no idea how to find them. They could be terrorists for all I know. I'm a health care lawyer. I don't even know how we can travel. As a human, you have no identification. And as a dragon, everyone will hunt you and add your corpse to a museum.

ULRIC

What does this mean?

CLAIRE

It means we're screwed.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

The President sits nervously on a couch watching a large screen television. His caring, gentle wife, RACHEL, sits next to him. Behind them stands his Campaign Manager, JERIEL JAMES, a middle-aged serious man, elegantly dressed in a business suit, with not a hair out of place. Below the TV sits a table filled with eloquent foods, such as finger sandwiches.

The television shows a CNN broadcast of election results. The Anchor reports with a graphic behind him showing: "Abbott 15%, Moen 32%" Next to the results are pictures of President Abbott and Senator Moen, an attractive woman.

A tired President turns to his wife. He taps her on her knee.

PRESIDENT

Well, Rachel, time to work on my concession speech and congratulate Senator Moen.

Rachel reaches over, grabs his hand.

RACHEL

There's plenty of time, honey. A lot can happen.

President looks up at Jeriel.

PRESIDENT

Is there still a chance, Jeriel?

JERIEL

Absolutely, Mister President.

President stands, faces Jeriel.

PRESIDENT

Please answer as my friend and not my campaign manager.

(looks right at Jeriel)

Is there really a chance?

Jeriel looks at the television then faces the President.

JERIEL

I'm sorry, sir. It would take a miracle at this point.

The President nods.

His face goes blank as an idea comes to him.

PRESIDENT

You're absolutely right.

INT. EXPENSIVE HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Claire opens the door, carrying the backpack. She walks into a beautifully decorated room with two queen sized beds.

She turns around and sees Ulric standing outside the door, looking around with his back to her. He wears a hat, face mask, and sunglasses.

She grabs his shoulder and turns him around.

CLAIRE

C'mon. You can watch this new world tomorrow. I need sleep.

ULRIC

But look at all these colored flames.

CLAIRE

Lights. I keep telling you they're called lights.

Ulric walks in with Claire pushing him. He quickly removes the hat, sunglasses, and face mask.

He looks around the room.

ULRIC

Is this the king's room?

Claire closes the door behind them. She points to the bed farthest from the door.

CLAIRE

You sleep there. With all your clothes on.

ULRIC

Clothes are very uncomfortable. I do not see the reason for wearing them.

Ulric walks around, touching everything.

He points to the large television screen.

ULRIC (CONT'D)

I don't understand this painting.

CLAIRE

No one does, Now go to sleep. I'm tired. It's been a long day.

Ulric shrugs. He touches everything on the way to the bed.

He lies down on his stomach, legs and arms spread out.

Claire shakes her head in disbelief.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
No one is ever going to believe
this.

Ulric adjusts his shirt.

INT. SECURE ROOM - NIGHT

The door opens and the President quickly walks in. Behind him, Sergeant Reardon eats a finger sandwich.

President hits the button and the door closes.

He walks up to the display case containing Excalibur. He studies the sword and looks at the "Take me up" engraving.

President lifts the glass lid. He feels a weird sensation. A power draws him closer to the sword.

He reaches in and pulls out the sword by its handle.

The sword shines and blazes, burning off the rust and crustiness, displaying a beautiful sword made of magical gems.

The President's hand shakes uncontrollably as he holds it. He winces, feeling a large surge of power come over him.

His whole body shakes.

The President grabs the handle with both hands. He closes his eyes and concentrates.

Finally, the shaking stops.

He opens his eyes and smiles. He nods in agreement.

Triumphantly, the President lifts the sword high.

PRESIDENT
Time for a miracle.

Power surges from the sword up through the ceiling.

INT. EXPENSIVE HOTEL ROOM - LATE AT NIGHT

Human Ulric and Claire sleep in separate beds. Ulric sleeps curled up on top of the covers, fully clothed and Claire rests under the covers wearing a t-shirt.

They both shoot up, awake at the same time.

Ulric looks at Claire.

ULRIC

The sword.

CLAIRE

I feel it too. Wow. It's a very strong feeling. It's like an awareness.

ULRIC

Someone is using its magic. This is not good. We need to retrieve it right away before they abuse the power.

CLAIRE

Or the power abuses them. I'm starting to understand your concern.

Claire looks around, trying to think. Ulric points to the west.

ULRIC

It's this way.

Claire laughs.

CLAIRE

But how far? And where? It could be in Sicily. Or who knows?

ULRIC

I will fly us in this direction towards Excalibur. I know where to find it now.

CLAIRE

Oh no, you won't.

ULRIC

We can fly low and you can ride on my back again.

CLAIRE

This just keeps getting better all the time. Okay but we'll leave in the morning.

ULRIC

No, we'll leave now.

CLAIRE
No. We'll leave in the morning.

They stare at each other.

Finally, Ulric backs down.

ULRIC
Fine. But first thing in the morning.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

President walks in, exhausted. Rachel and Jeriel are excited to see him. APPLAUSE is heard coming from behind the President.

Rachel rushes up to him.

RACHEL
Where have you been? We've been --

JERIEL
You've practically won. Many networks are already declaring you the winner.

President smiles.

PRESIDENT
I guess miracles can happen.

Rachel hugs him, excited.

JERIEL
In all my years, I've never seen anything like this.

President smiles while holding Rachel.

PRESIDENT
(to Rachel)
I love you, Rachel.

RACHEL
I love you, Mister Re-elected President.

EXT. OVER THE OCEAN - DAY

Ulric the dragon flies low, close to the ocean. Claire rides on his back, holding tightly to his large scales. She wears sunglasses, a raincoat, and a backpack.

An occasional wave SPLASHES them. Claire lets out a frustrating SCREAM each time.

CLAIRE

By the way, in our world, first thing in the morning is not four a.m.

ULRIC

Fresh air at last. I've known some dragons that flew across this ocean but I never have.

Ocean SPLASHES in her face.

CLAIRE

(angry)
Shit!

Claire wipes the water off her face with her sleeve.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Considering the size of my saddle sore, we've been gone for hours. We're flying west in the opposite direction of Sicily so I'm not sure where we're heading. Possibly America.

(pauses)
I hope.

Ocean spray SPLASHES on both of them.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

This is getting old. I hope we see land soon. Aren't you tired yet?

ULRIC

Not in the least. I'm too excited. We finally know where the sword is.

Ocean SPLASHES them again.

CLAIRE

(yells)
Dragon, fly a little higher. I'm tired of getting splashed.

Ulric hides his smirk.

EXT. OVER THE OCEAN - NIGHT

Day fades into night as they continue to fly.

Claire fights to stay awake as she rides Ulric's back. He flies a little higher than before.

Ulric spots a distant airplane with its lights high above them.

ULRIC
There it is again.

CLAIRE
Now what?

ULRIC
Look. It's a moving star.

Claire looks up and sees the airplane.

CLAIRE
It's a, uh, large metal flying
boat.

ULRIC
Wow. There's metal everywhere.

Ulric sees something up ahead. It's city lights far away.

ULRIC (CONT'D)
There's a very large village up
ahead. I see a lot of fires.

CLAIRE
(grumpy)
Lights. How many times do I have to
tell you. They're called "lights."
As soon as we get close, land on a
deserted beach nearby where there's
no people or boats. Then turn into
a human right away.

ULRIC
Got it.

Ulric sees a small fishing boat. He gets closer and waves.

ULRIC (CONT'D)
Good day, sirs.

The People on the boat watch in amazement as they fly by.

CLAIRE
(angry)
And quit waving at boats.

EXT. DESERTED BEACH - NIGHT

Ulric lands on the beach with a grove nearby. Claire jumps off his back.

Ulric turns into a naked man.

Claire stretches, sore from sitting for a long time.

CLAIRE
Ow. My butt hurts from your hard scales.

ULRIC
I apologize for the way I am.

Claire frowns.

She takes her backpack off. Claire pulls out Ulric's clothes and throws them to Ulric.

Claire looks around and spots the lights of the town.

CLAIRE
Put these on and stay here. I'm going into the local town and will rent a car, uh, carriage. Then we can get a hotel, uh, inn and sleep for hours.
(thinks)
And don't talk to anyone. Just hide somewhere.

Claire puts her gloves on as she walks off towards the town.

Ulric watches her leave, holding the clothes.

He turns and stares out into the ocean.

ULRIC
I swear by my life, Lady of the Lake, I will do whatever is needed to recover Excalibur.

Ulric closes his eyes and sighs.

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Claire drives an expensive rental car with human Ulric wearing clothes, a hat, sunglasses, and a face mask. Ulric watches the cars as they drive by on the road.

ULRIC

These small carriages move so fast.
How do they do it without horses?

CLAIRE

Magic. So, we're in Canada in a
small town called Saint John's.

Ulric touches everything on the dashboard.

ULRIC

Look at all these... lights.

Ulric accidentally turns on the radio and loud rap MUSIC plays.

He jumps.

ULRIC (CONT'D)

What demons have I unleashed?

Claire reaches over and turns off the radio.

CLAIRE

Quit touching everything. You're
like a little kid.

ULRIC

It's all so fascinating.

CLAIRE

I have a hotel room already. Let's
eat, get a good night's sleep, and
then leave in the morning. And not
first thing in the morning.

Ulric points to his left.

ULRIC

I can still feel the sword in this
direction.

CLAIRE

Me too. And it feels stronger since
we've arrived here.

ULRIC

We should go now and not sleep.

CLAIRE

(angry)

Ulric, I... we humans need sleep.
We need food. And I'm going to get
both right now. Got it?

ULRIC

Why are you angry so much?

Claire thinks.

CLAIRE

I get disappointed a lot.

ULRIC

I'm sorry.

CLAIRE

And I get impatient arguing with
ignorant people.

Claire looks at Ulric and raises her eyebrows at him.

INT. BOUTIQUE HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Claire sleeps in her own bed. Human Ulric stands at the
window, peaking outside through a small separation of the
curtains.

He watches cars and people pass by in the parking lot.

Ulric smiles as he watches a young couple, passionately
kissing and hugging as they go inside their hotel room.

He frowns as he watches a father argue with his teenager as
the family (father, mother, teenager, and grade schooler)
unloads the car of their luggage.

Ulric ponders the neon signs.

Ulric turns around and studies Claire. He looks at her hands
above the covers.

He nods.

ULRIC

I swear by my life Claire Einar,
you will be cured of the dragon
curse.

Claire wakes up.

CLAIRE
 (sleepy)
 I was asleep.

She squints, seeing Ulric stand there, proudly by her bed.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
 Quit being so dramatic and go to
 sleep.

Ulric lies down on the bed. His eyes open, thinking.

ULRIC
 Why are humans always in a hurry?

CLAIRE
 (angry)
 GO TO SLEEP!

Claire aggressively rolls over, with her back to Ulric.

INT./EXT. - CAR - DAY

Claire drives. She drinks her coffee. She thoughtfully places the cup in the car's cupholder. She then picks up a berry from a cup of fruit in the other cupholder and delicately eats it.

Human Ulric, wearing a hat and sunglasses, eats quickly and ferociously. Surrounding him, he has many fast food bags. Most are filled with food while the others are now empty.

Ulric holds up a piece of bacon.

ULRIC
 This is delightful too. What is
 this food called?

CLAIRE
 A heart attack.

ULRIC
 I like heart attacks.
 (looks around)
 Do you know how long this journey
 will take?

CLAIRE
 Of course not. I don't even know
 where we're going. I'll just drive
 till this feeling tells us we've
 arrived.

ULRIC
It would be faster --

CLAIRE
It would be more dangerous if you flew. If we come across anyone, let me do the talking. Just sit there quietly. Are you capable of that?

ULRIC
Of course.

CLAIRE
Show me. Let's see how long you can stay silent.

Ulric nods and returns to eating. Claire smiles.

Ulric looks around at the buildings, stores, and cars.

ULRIC
Where are all the trees?

Claire SIGHS heavily.

CLAIRE
I hope this damn sword is close by.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

President sits at his desk, looking at numerous photos scattered about. He's looking healthier, stronger, and less gray.

Standing next to him, overlooking his shoulder is the SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MARIE, a middle-aged, serious woman meticulously dressed in a military uniform with many metals. She is always dressed this way.

Both show concern as they study the photos.

PRESIDENT
Are you sure these reports are accurate, Marie?

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Yes sir. I blame the F. B. I. for their tardiness. They're from our satellite. There seems to be a number of Chinese battleships and aircraft carriers heading to America's west coast.

Marie points to a photo.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (CONT'D)

Notice how they're scattered about the Pacific Ocean. It's to give the impression they're not working together.

PRESIDENT

That would be a foolish move to attack America. We can outgun China ten fold.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Plus, we've picked up numerous heat signals around the Qinling mountain range where China stores its nuclear weapons.

PRESIDENT

Why in the world would they use nuclear bombs and risk mass global destruction?

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

It gets worse.

PRESIDENT

Worse?

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Many of our satellite signals are having problems transmitting. We're experiencing interruptions, including Wi-Fi, cable, and any --

PRESIDENT

Good God. They ARE planning an attack. I don't want a Pearl Harbor on my watch. Let's call an emergency meeting with the Secretary of State, head of the F.B.I. and C.I.A.

The President looks sternly at the Secretary.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

You're the Secretary of Defense, do whatever it takes to stop these ships, power up our nuclear weapons, and Marie, good Lord, fix the damn internet.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Yes sir, Mister President. I just
hope and pray we're not too late.

President stands. He puts his hand on Marie's shoulder.

PRESIDENT
It's never too late.

INT. SECURE ROOM - DAY

President stands in front of the sword in its display. The lid is open. The door behind him is closed.

PRESIDENT
I need you. The people of the world
need you.

President reaches in and grabs the handle of the sword. The sword shines and blazes again. The President feels power surge through him but not as severe as before.

President moans, content with this feeling. He nods as though he hears something.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
Thank you.

He lifts the sword as before. Power surges from the sword, upwards.

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

Claire drives as human Ulric quietly stares out the window. He wears a face mask, hat, and sunglasses.

Ulric and Claire shiver at the same time. They look at each other.

CLAIRE
There it is again.

ULRIC
We must hurry.

Claire speeds up.

CLAIRE
I can only go so fast.

ULRIC

I sense the sword's presence even more now but it's still quite a distance away.

CLAIRE

I know. Damn it.

The car drives faster, weaving in and out of traffic.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

President is working late at his desk. A rushed KNOCK comes from his door.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Mister President, it's Secretary of Defense, sir. It's urgent that I speak with you.

The President pushes a button under his desk and the door opens.

Secretary of Defense Marie rushes in. She looks exhausted.

PRESIDENT

Come in --

The door closes behind her.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Sir, the President of China has died. In fact, the entire heads of the political, military, and Defense offices of China are also deceased.

PRESIDENT

Did you order an attack --

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

No sir. They... all of them died from heart failure. We spoke with our sources and no one knows how this happened. Sir, China has no leader or any one qualified to fill that role.

PRESIDENT

That's weird. What country would have the technology to pull this off?

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

I can't image any government would have a way to cause hand-picked people to die at the same time.

PRESIDENT

At the same time?

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Yes sir. But the best news is the ships are retreating and the nuclear weapons have powered down.

PRESIDENT

And the internet?

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Sir, everything's working. We are no longer jammed. The attack has been called off.

PRESIDENT

That's great news indeed.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

We still need to be on high alert. China could put their plan back in motion and whoever attacked them could also come after our top leaders.

PRESIDENT

Such as me?

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

And me, among others.

PRESIDENT

Bring us to gold alert and find out who had the guts to attack China.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Yes sir. Do you want me to send condolences to China on your behalf?

PRESIDENT

Uhm, sure. And Marie...

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Yes sir.

President stands and sternly gets in the Secretary's face.

PRESIDENT

Don't ever let this happen again
without more warning or I'll get a
new Secretary of Defense.

Secretary of Defense is surprised by the display of anger.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Yes sir, Mister President.

President pushes the button and the door opens.

PRESIDENT

Dismissed.

Secretary of Defense feels disoriented, uncomfortable. She
salutes and leaves the room with her dignity destroyed.

INT. ANDREW'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

An executive office filled with antiques and old weaponry
from different times and cultures. Andrew looks at his laptop
while sitting at his desk.

His laptop shows: "Latest Story: China's top leaders found
dead. Cause to be determined."

He looks at the date on his monitor: "Tuesday, January 5."

Andrew is deep in thought, worried.

He picks up his cellphone and calls.

ANDREW

(into the phone)

Give me the Secretary of Defense.

INT. SECURE ROOM - SAME DAY

Andrew walks up to Sergeant Reardon from the opened elevator.
Sergeant Reardon smiles.

SERGEANT REARDON

Good afternoon, Professor Falco.

ANDREW

Hi Sergeant Reardon.

SERGEANT REARDON

No President today?

ANDREW

Not today. In fact, I'd like to keep this visit between us. It's secret government stuff I'm working on.

SERGEANT REARDON

Yes sir.

Andrew studies the hand scanner.

ANDREW

Has the President been down here much?

SERGEANT REARDON

Yes sir. He comes in quite often.

Andrew turns to Sergeant Reardon.

ANDREW

Was he here Monday?

SERGEANT REARDON

Yes sir. I remember because he was in a big hurry. In fact, he was in the room for quite a while.

ANDREW

Has he ever brought someone with him?

SERGEANT REARDON

No sir. Always alone.

ANDREW

Has anyone come down here besides the President?

SERGEANT REARDON

No sir. We keep logs and none of the other security detail has reported anyone else showing up. I can guarantee this is very secure and well protected.

ANDREW

I'm sure it is. Just confirming.
(pauses in thought)
And thank you. Don't add my visit to the log. This is top secret. And no word even to the President.

SERGEANT REARDON
Is he in trouble, sir?

Andrew holds back surprise.

ANDREW
No. No. Just making sure the room
is secure.

INT/EXT. CAR - SAME DAY

Claire and an impatient human Ulric wait in the car. They look straight ahead at a long line of cars waiting at America's border crossing.

A large sign at the border reads "Welcome to the United States of America".

Claire studies the Border Patrol Agents walking around, searching cars, and interviewing passengers.

Ulric wears the face mask, hat, and sunglasses. Claire holds her driver's license and rental car agreement in one hand. Her other hand rests on the steering wheel. She wears gloves.

ULRIC
We don't have time for this.

CLAIRE
We don't have a choice. We have to
play by the rules of these times.

Claire stops and thinks.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
You know, dragon, before all this
happened. I never broke a single
law. In fact, I've never even
cheated on my taxes. But now, I
have trespassed, damaged property,
fought military, and am on the run.
I might be spending the rest of my
life in prison.

ULRIC
But think of the good you're doing.
Your world could be annihilated if
the sword bearer continues to use
its power. Hopefully not for evil.
You and I will stop this human.

CLAIRE
(laughs)
The dragon and the knight
descendant.

Claire points ahead to the border crossing.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Our immediate problem is getting
you across the border. You have no
identification or passport.

ULRIC
You know who I am.

CLAIRE
It doesn't work that way. You need
proof.

ULRIC
They won't believe you?

CLAIRE
(smirks)
No. They'll not take my word for
it.

ULRIC
There seems to be a lot of mistrust
and anger in these days. Why is
that?

Claire sighs.

CLAIRE
Because you can't trust anyone.
You've seen a little bit of how we
treat each other. How awful we are.
How fake we are. We may say nice
things but we don't really mean
them. We're all living lies,
dragon.

ULRIC
How did all this change?

CLAIRE
Don't give me that. You had wars
during your time. Battles that
killed thousands because people
were greedy or didn't trust the
other leader.

ULRIC

Sadly, that is true. This also led to the death of many dragons. Humans feared us, so they killed us.

CLAIRE

See. Nothing has changed. Can we just wait in silence?

The car in front of them moves forward. Claire puts the car in drive and they move forward and stop, still in line.

Ulric looks at Claire.

ULRIC

Why are YOU filled with so much anger and mistrust?

CLAIRE

That silence didn't last long.

(sighs)

If you must know, I learned early in my life not to trust or count on anyone. That's why I prefer to be left alone, just do my own thing. I don't bother others and I ask that they let me be.

(soft laugh)

Plus, I basically hate people.

Claire looks and points at Ulric.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Especially dragons for what you've done to me.

ULRIC

Do you hate your family?

Claire turns, facing the windshield. She sits up.

CLAIRE

Oh yes. Very much.

ULRIC

How can you hate your family? They are your blood --

Claire immediately responds with a fast answer, still facing forward.

CLAIRE

They left me. That good enough for you? My father died of heart disease when I was twelve. He lied when he said he'd always be there for me. Then my mother was a real winner. She couldn't handle his death. Mommy dearest took the coward's way out and shot herself in the head. She made sure I would be the first to find her too. Bless her black heart.

Claire squeezes the steering wheel tight while still looking forward.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I had no siblings, no relatives to care for me but my best friend convinced her parents to take me in. Three months later, she convinced her parents to kick me out. She didn't like that I was better than her.

Claire looks over at a very concerned Ulric.

ULRIC

I am so sorry.

Claire laughs.

CLAIRE

I never thought my first therapist would be a dragon.

The car in front of them moves forward. It stops and visits with a male BORDER PATROL AGENT. Claire puts the car in drive and they move forward and stop, still in line.

ULRIC

What did you do?

Claire pauses before she continues.

CLAIRE

Whatever I could to survive on my own. I was fourteen and homeless. I'm sure dragons don't know about that shit. I lied about my age and got a job working the midnight shift for an answering service for a doctor group. During the day, I finished high school.

(MORE)

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I eventually purchased a car, got an apartment, and a law degrees. I used my connections and got a job with a malpractice law firm. The one that represented the medical company I answered phones for. I did all this by myself.

Claire nods, proud.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

And I'm damn good at what I do. The firm's owners learned just to leave me alone. They're happy. I'm happy.

ULRIC

Did you ever love?

Claire laughs.

CLAIRE

Hell no. If I have no friends and no relationships, I have no pain and no disappointments.

ULRIC

I'm so sorry, Claire.

CLAIRE

(angry)
Quit saying that.

ULRIC

But what about the knight's code? As a knight, you're supposed to look after other humans. Help others. Care for --

CLAIRE

I'm not a knight and I have no code. Listen, dragon, others have never helped me so why should I help them?

ULRIC

Because it is the honorable and virtuous thing to do.

Car in front of them moves forward through the checkpoint. The Border Patrol Agent waves them forward.

Claire puts the car in drive and they advance.

CLAIRE
Remember. Let me do all the
talking.

The Border Patrol Agent signals them to stop.

Their car stops. The Agent walks over and stands outside of
Claire's window. She lowers her window.

The Border Patrol Agent frowns from having a bad day.

BORDER PATROL AGENT
(gruff)
Passport and car registration.

CLAIRE
Actually...

Claire looks at the Agent's name tag: "Scott".

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Actually, Mister Scott --

BORDER PATROL AGENT
Scott is my first name.

CLAIRE
Yes, of course, I'm sorry. I just
thought ... anyway, I have a
driver's license and the rental car
agreement.

She hands the documents to the Agent.

The Agent studies the papers.

He bends down and looks at Ulric.

Ulric waves.

BORDER PATROL AGENT
I need your identification too.

CLAIRE
Actually, he doesn't have any. He's
an American citizen. He just got
out of the hospital after a
terrible mountain climbing
accident. He was air-lifted to the
nearest medical facility and all
his personal belongings were lost
in the fall.

BORDER PATROL AGENT
Do you have any proof of this?

CLAIRE
You could take my word for it.

BORDER PATROL AGENT
(sniggers)
I'll need more than that.

ULRIC
(whispers to Claire)
You were right.

BORDER PATROL AGENT
Sorry. You'll need to come back
with some form of I.D. for him
before he can enter the country.

ULRIC
(to the Agent)
But we have to enter this kingdom.

CLAIRE
Ulric, quiet.

Border Patrol Agent points at Ulric's head.

BORDER PATROL AGENT
Sir, I'm going to need to see you
without the glasses, hat, and mask.

CLAIRE
Mister Scott, uh, I mean Scott, I
am a lawyer and represent him --

The Border Patrol Agent angers.

BORDER PATROL AGENT
Take that stuff off or we'll take
you in for questioning.

ULRIC
We have to proceed. The fate of the
world is at stake.

BORDER PATROL AGENT
(worried)
What?

Ulric reaches up to remove his face mask.

CLAIRE
No, Ulric.

Ulric removes his face mask, glasses, and hat revealing his dragon-like head.

ULRIC
Now can we get in?

Border Patrol Agent is shocked seeing Ulric's head. He quickly pulls out his gun and aims it at them.

BORDER PATROL AGENT
Put your hands in the air and slowly get out of the car.

ULRIC
(confused)
I don't understand. I did what you asked.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CAR - DAY

Claire gets out of the car, hands raised.

CLAIRE
Ulric, just do what I'm doing.

Ulric climbs over her seat and gets out of the car on her side.

He looks at her and raises his hands like her.

ULRIC
What did I do?

Border Patrol Agent grabs his walkie talkie attached to his shoulder strap. He talks into it.

BORDER PATROL AGENT
This is Scott. We have a code ten thirty-three. Code ten thirty-three.

Other Agents run from the border crossing towards the Agent, guns drawn.

ULRIC
Can we not enter the kingdom of America?

CLAIRE
No, idiot, we're going to jail.

Claire walks toward the Agent, dropping her hands.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
There's no need for this. If I can
explain --

The Agent points the gun at Claire.

BORDER PATROL AGENT
Get back.

The Border Patrol Agent panics, seeing her movement. He
raises the gun to her face.

ULRIC
NO!

Ulric JUMPS on the Agent.

They fall to the ground, wrestling.

The gun FIRES.

Ulric rolls off the Agent, exposing a gunshot wound to his
stomach. He has the gun in his hand. Ulric moans in a lot of
pain.

ULRIC (CONT'D)
Claire, are you unharmed?

Claire nods, scared. She has never seen blood like this
before.

CLAIRE
I'm fine but you...

ULRIC
Good. I'm getting weaker. Is this
what dying feels like?

Claire kneels down beside him.

The Border Patrol Agent stands and backs away.

The SOUND of running footsteps gets closer.

CLAIRE
(whispers)
Change.

Ulric changes from the human form to a dragon.

The dragon ROARS at the Border Patrol Agent as he runs away.

Ulric grabs Claire with both hands.

Shots RING OUT, striking Ulric.

He turns to see a number of agents SHOOTING their guns at him.

Ulric flies, bringing Claire close to his body to protect her.

The agents continue to FIRE at them as they fly away.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Ulric flying, carrying Claire in his claws over secluded land.

CLAIRE

Are you okay?

ULRIC

I sting all over but I will live. I probably cannot become human again. That human form felt like it was fading away.

(thinks)

It felt so odd. I was in such pain, yet very tired, and... and at peace.

Claire investigates the countryside below. She spots an ocean far to her left.

She points in that direction.

CLAIRE

There's an ocean over there. We'll be detected less over the water.

(pauses)

Thank you. You saved me back there.

ULRIC

(smiles at her)

Does that count?

CLAIRE

(smiling back)

Yes. That one does count for saving my life.

(thinks for a second)

Even though you started the chaos.

ULRIC

I most certainly did not.

They playfully argue as he flies.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE GROUNDS - NEXT DAY

President and Andrew take a stroll. The President looks even more healthier, younger, and less gray. Numerous secret service agents surround them but not too close.

ANDREW

I saw the news about China.

PRESIDENT

Those poor people. I feel sorry for their families. I can't imagine suddenly losing a loved one.

ANDREW

Very weird that something like that would happen to all the top Chinese leaders at the same time.

PRESIDENT

We're investigating how another country pulled off a simultaneous timed attack targeted at key individuals. Possibility timed poison.

Andrew pauses.

ANDREW

Sir, have you touched Excalibur?

President stops walking, turns to Andrew.

PRESIDENT

What the hell are you insinuating?

ANDREW

Sir, we don't know what the sword can do. Or what it can unleash. There're unconfirmed reports of dragons spotted in England and America.

PRESIDENT

Oh, now you believe in dragons?

ANDREW

I'm just saying you need to be careful.

PRESIDENT

(raises his voice)

Watch it, Falco. If you wish to keep your job on the presidential staff, you'll be careful what you accuse your President of.

Andrew gently puts his hand on the President's shoulder.

ANDREW

Henry, have you heard the saying, "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely"? I'm just --

PRESIDENT

Fired. You're fired. And get your hand off your President's shoulder.

Andrew is shocked by the President's unusual aggressiveness. He removes his hand and backs away. He musters up the courage to confront his leader.

ANDREW

Mister President, I... I could have the sword removed.

President leans in and whispers.

PRESIDENT

Try it and you could suffer the same fate as the Chinese leaders.

Andrew backs away even more. He studies the anger in the President's face.

ANDREW

(scared)

Yes sir.

Andrew turns and walks away.

President waits till Andrew walks around a building, and out of sight.

The President turns the other way and walks quickly towards the White House.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE GROUNDS - DAY

Once Andrew rounds the corner, he walks faster. Andrew pulls out his cellphone. He pushes buttons to make a call.

ANDREW

(into phone)

Marie. It's true. He's probably heading to the room now. I'll meet you as planned.

(listens)

I'm sorry too.

EXT. OVER THE OCEAN - SAME DAY

Ulric flying with Claire now on his back.

She looks to her right and sees New York City far off.

CLAIRE

Ulric. Over there to the right is the city, uh, village I live in. It's called New York.

ULRIC

It's enormous. I've never seen so many castles and all of them are so tall. Do you miss it?

CLAIRE

I do. A lot. I miss the familiarity and certainty. I loved waking up and knowing what my day entailed. Unlike now.

ULRIC

Do many humans live there?

CLAIRE

More than there are stars in the sky. Including moving stars.

ULRIC

Wow. There are more humans in that village than the entire world during my time.

CLAIRE

You'd hate it. Except the food is great.

ULRIC

I do like the food of this time.

Claire looks straight ahead as they continue past New York.

CLAIRE

I'm glad the sword is not in New York. As weird as the city is, you can't explain a dragon.

(pauses)

We're heading south where there are many large villages. I hope the sword is not in any of them. It will be difficult for you to fly in them.

ULRIC

I will be quick and avoid all metal weaponry.

INT. SECURE ROOM - DAY

President stands before the sword, anxious and can hardly wait to hold it. The door is open behind him.

He takes a deep breath. He has missed that power surge feeling.

The President reaches for the sword.

PRESIDENT

I need you again.

He grabs it and the sword lights up and blazes. He feels the power and smiles.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

They don't understand. But I do.

The President excitedly lifts the sword.

EXT. OVER THE OCEAN - DAY

Ulric and Claire still flying over the ocean, shiver, feeling the urge from the sword.

CLAIRE

Oh no, not again.

ULRIC

We need to go faster.

Ulric flaps faster with big strides of his wings.

CLAIRE

You must be getting tired.

ULRIC

I am weary and still in pain but
the sword is close. That is all
that matters.

Claire actually worries.

CLAIRE

Ulric, don't overdo it. You are
wounded and tired.

ULRIC

Is that concern in your voice?

CLAIRE

I just... need you to stay alive.

ULRIC

Maybe you received feelings from
our bonding.

Ulric smiles at Claire. She smiles back.

CLAIRE

God, I hope not.

Claire laughs and Ulric joins in.

INT. SECURE ROOM - DAY

Sergeant Reardon looks in through the open door and sees the
President holding the blazing sword in triumph.

SERGEANT REARDON

Sir --

The President points the blazing sword at the Sergeant.

PRESIDENT

Back away. That's an order.

INT. WHITE HOUSE BASEMENT - DAY

Sergeant Reardon backs up away from the door.

President angrily walks past Sergeant Reardon, holding the
glowing sword.

Sergeant Reardon watches him get into the opened elevator.

From inside, the President pushes the door button and the
doors close.

Immediately Sergeant Reardon gets on the walkie-talkie attached to his chest strap.

SERGEANT REARDON
We have a breach.

INT. SMALL LOBBY, WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Closed elevator doors. A bright light appears through the middle opening where the doors meet.

The doors open revealing President holding a bright blazing Excalibur. He scowls at what he sees.

Pull back showing Secretary of Defense, Andrew, and a number of armed Security Guards pointing weapons at the President.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Put the sword down, sir.

The President steps out of the elevator.

PRESIDENT
I am your President and you will do
WHAT I SAY.

Andrew's concern overcomes his fear of the situation.

ANDREW
Henry, it's not you. The sword or
possibly the corruption of power is
controlling you.

PRESIDENT
(firmly)
I am doing what's best for our
country. All of you lower your
weapons and back away. That's an
order.

The President holds up the sword. The Security Guards look at the Secretary of Defense and hold their positions.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
I beg of you, Mister President,
please comply.

PRESIDENT
Imagine what I could do with this.
I could remove corporate crime,
political corruption, and... and
cure hunger, create better
education.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
I could create more money for
healthcare and less for guns.

ANDREW
At what cost?

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
One last chance, sir.

The President advances towards them and YELLS angrily.

PRESIDENT
Out of my way!

The sword BLAZES brighter. The President SWEEPS it in front of him and a great power BURSTS out THROWING all of the Security Guards, Marie, and Andrew against the wall. They hit with such force that all are unconscious.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

President rushes in through the open door carrying the blazing sword. Behind him comes SCREAMING, LOUD FOOTSTEPS RUNNING, and CHAOTIC NOISES.

He goes to the desk and pushes the button. The door closes.

President holds up the sword. It blazes brighter. The President YELLS.

PRESIDENT
Excalibur! Make me the...

The President stops when he hears many GUNSHOTS coming from outside his window.

The President slowly turns to face the windows behind his desk just as Ulric and Claire CRASH through them, taking out all three windows. Ulric's claws cover Claire, shielding her.

The President falls back from the force, COLLIDING into chairs. He hangs on to the sword.

CLAIRE
Oh my God. The President has it.

Ulric YELLS at the President.

ULRIC
Give me Excalibur!

Ulric releases Claire. She stands holding her hand out to the President.

CLAIRE

Mister President, you need to let us have the sword. Please.

The President stands, face filled with anger.

PRESIDENT

Never!

He points the blazing sword at Ulric and Claire. An enormous flame BURSTS OUT and STRIKES both of them.

The dragon and Claire CRASH backwards into the remaining walls. Claire lands on the other side of the room away from both Ulric and the President.

Ulric quickly stands and BREATHES fire at the President.

He holds up the sword and it blocks the continuous flames. Excalibur absorbs all of the fire from Ulric's mouth until the flames disappear.

Ulric is surprised that his flames stopped coming out of his mouth.

ULRIC

What have you done with my hellfire?

The President holds up the sword triumphantly.

PRESIDENT

Excalibur selected ME. We shall rule together.

ULRIC

You are not worthy. You have desecrated the sword with your corruptive self. Give it to me!

People are frantically POUNDING at the door.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (O.S.)

Mister President.

EXT. OUTSIDE WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Many armed Marines run on the White House grounds towards the hole in the wall of the Oval Office. They FIRE their guns at Ulric, who SCREAMS when struck with numerous bullets.

A MARINE OFFICER sees the President inside. He YELLS and waves his hands in the air.

MARINE OFFICER
Cease fire. The President is
inside. We could accidently hit
him.

The Marines stop but keep their weapons drawn, pointing at
Ulric. They take a position outside the office.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Claire stands, a little groggy. Fire BURNS through her
gloves, hovering above her hands.

She CALLS OUT to the President.

CLAIRE
We're here to help, sir.

Ulric SWINGS his tail but the President dodges out of the
way.

As the tail SWINGS by, the President STABS it with his sword.
It cuts deep into the tail, causing a major wound. Ulric
SCREAMS.

PRESIDENT
I am the new King Arthur. Bow to
me.

Ulric exams his bleeding tail, surprised by what the sword
did.

ULRIC
(to Claire)
It's as I feared. The sword could
kill a dragon.
(lowers his voice)
Let us both strike at the same
time.

Claire shakes her head, not sure what to do.

CLAIRE
(to Ulric)
But he's the President of the
United States.

ULRIC
Not anymore.

Ulric lunges towards the President.

He grabs him with both hands and squeezes.

The President CRIES OUT in pain.

From inside his grasp, a fire BURNS brighter and brighter.

Until it BURSTS forth, freeing the President, and burning Ulric's hands. Ulric SCREAMS.

The President is also on fire but the flames die down. He's severely burned.

Then suddenly the sword's power covers the President and heals him.

Ulric collapses in pain and exhaustion. He holds out his hands as they smolder. His tail continues to bleed.

The President walks towards Ulric, holding the sword up.

PRESIDENT

Begone, beast. Your time is done.

Ulric struggles to stand. He looks to Claire. Their eyes meet.

The President brings the sword down towards Ulric's chest.

Ulric holds up a claw to block the blow.

The sword CUTS through his claw and PLUNGES into Ulric's chest.

Ulric SCREAMS in pain.

The President PULLS the sword out and LAUGHS.

He backs away and admires Excalibur.

Claire is confused, not knowing what to do. The President is to her left and Ulric to her right.

ULRIC

(dying, to Claire)
Get the sword.

CLAIRE

But I could save you, like I did
before.

ULRIC

Excalibur matters more.

Claire looks at the President as he turns towards her. She looks back at Ulric as he lowers his head, tired.

CLAIRE

Shit.

She leaps towards Ulric.

She runs her palm across one of Ulric's nails and winches in pain.

She quickly places her bleeding hand on Ulric's open wound on his chest.

She SHOOTs out flames from her hands, lighting up his chest.

The glow GROWS, covering Ulric's body.

The President runs towards Claire, blazing sword held high.

The flames are gone from her hands.

She looks back over her shoulder. She starts to duck as she sees the President about to hit her with the sword.

As Excalibur comes down towards Claire, Ulric's healed claw GRABS it.

The flames BURN his claw.

A fully healed Ulric YANKS it out of the President's grasp. The sword's flames stop.

As the President reaches for the sword, Claire BACKHANDS the President.

He FLIES back into the wall.

He slumps to the floor unconscious.

The POUNDING on the door becomes LOUDER and RHYTHMIC.

Claire quickly grabs the curtains from the floor.

She lays them on the floor in front of Ulric. She sees the power has healed Ulric's claw.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Place it here.

Ulric wrestles with his thoughts as he holds the sword. He studies it, contemplating.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

(yells)

Ulric!

The dragon sees Claire's anxiety. He finally places the sword on the curtains.

Claire starts wrapping Excalibur.

She stops, looking at the magical sword.

She turns to Ulric. He nods in agreement.

Claire touches Excalibur and a BURST of power ERUPTS from the sword and covers her body.

The glow fades away.

She looks at her hands. All her scales are gone.

She smiles, very happy.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

It worked!

ULRIC

I told you it would.

CLAIRE

I was afraid to believe you.

Ulric smiles at Claire.

ULRIC

You saved me.

CLAIRE

(smiles back)

That was a real save too. Now we're even.

ULRIC

(smiling back)

I thought you didn't care about other humans.

CLAIRE

Don't push it.

Claire wraps the sword tightly in the curtains.

The door BURSTS open. Armed Marines carrying a battering ram rush forward into the room.

Followed by Secretary of Defense, Andrew, and a number of armed Secret Service with weapons drawn. They are shocked to see a dragon.

Claire raises her hands up. Ulric sees Claire's action and does the same.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
We mean no harm.

ANDREW
Wow. There really is a dragon.

Armed Marines cautiously enter through the opening from the outside, guns raised, pointing at Ulric and Claire.

ULRIC
We just came for Excalibur. Nothing else.

ANDREW
Good Heavens. The dragon talks.

ULRIC
I am Ulric, the guardian of King Arthur's sword. It needs to be returned to its rightful place.

ANDREW
I couldn't agree more.
(to all the soldiers)
Everything's okay. They won't harm us.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Lower your weapons. All of you.

All the Marines and Secret Service slowly obey as ordered.
Secretary of Defense sees the President lying on the floor.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (CONT'D)
Mister President!

She rushes to him and feels for a pulse on his neck. The President MOANS.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (CONT'D)
He's alive.
(to Secret Service Agents nearby)
Get him to the medical facility.
NOW!

Agents rush to the President.

Claire picks up the wrapped sword.

CLAIRE
 (to Ulric)
 We need to leave.

ULRIC
 (surprised)
 We?

CLAIRE
 I'm seeing this through to the end.

ANDREW
 Can we help?

CLAIRE
 We could use a ride. I'm still a
 little saddle sore.

Claire smiles at Ulric.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
 We did it.

Ulric places a claw gently on her shoulder.

ULRIC
 The dragon and the knight.

INT. INSIDE A LARGE Y-20 MILITARY PLANE - NIGHT

Ulric lays inside a large open area. He's eating a large selection of foods. The wrapped sword lies beside him, under one back claw. He's visiting with Andrew, who anxiously types on his laptop.

Claire, wearing a jacket, sits nearby at a desk busily typing on a laptop while wearing headphones. Her lit cellphone lies on the desk.

ANDREW
 My whole life I hoped and wanted
 the King Arthur legends to be true.

ULRIC
 Why would you not believe what was
 written? Believing without proof is
 called faith, yes? It's easier to
 believe when a dragon sits in front
 of you.

ANDREW
 True. What do you think of this
 world, this time?

ULRIC

Oh, I do not care for it. Too much chaos. It's very loud. There are constant noises. And there are many disgusting smells. Humans are everywhere and always moving quickly, like ants.

(thinks)

And everyone seems so angry, so serious. Where's the gaiety? The fun?

Ulric looks at Claire, busily working.

CLAIRE

(into headphne)

I'm not sure when I'll be back. Please have the other attorneys continue to work on my cases.

(pauses as she listens)

Yes, I think I will be sharing my work more often.

(listens then smiles)

Yes, this is Claire, smartass.

Secretary of Defense walks over to Claire.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Ms. Einar, we just passed England's border and should be in Glastonbury Abbey within an hour. All preparations have been made with King Arthur's tomb. They're ready when you are.

Ulric stands.

ULRIC

Actually, we are not going to the tomb.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

But I thought --

ULRIC

I have been summoned to return the sword to the Lady of the Lake. She believes Excalibur cannot be in your world ever again. The sword will be safer back in the realm of magic.

ANDREW

Sadly, I understand.

Claire walks to Ulric, putting her cellphone in her jacket pocket.

CLAIRE
I want to join you.

ULRIC
I was hoping you'd say that. We
leave now.

CLAIRE
Now? We're like forty thousand feet
above the ground.

ULRIC
Imagine the view. I can hardly
wait.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Thank you both.

ULRIC
I hope your president will not be
punished for his runaway
corruption.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
He has resigned and will be closely
watched as he spends more time with
his family.

Andrew walks up to Ulric with his phone in hand.

ANDREW
Do you mind if I take a selfie
before you leave?

ULRIC
A what?

Andrew points to his phone.

ANDREW
It's a picture of you and me
together. It's like a painting.
(pauses)
It's for my wife.

Ulric looks at Claire. She nods in agreement.

ULRIC
Of course.

Claire motions to Andrew.

CLAIRE

You will need me to take the
picture to get that big old dragon
in the photo.

ANDREW

Thank you!

Andrew hands the phone to Claire.

Andrew stands beside Ulric and smiles a very big, years-in-the-making satisfying smile. Ulric looks at the phone, smiles, and waves.

Claire takes the picture and nods. She hands the phone back to Andrew.

Andrew turns to Ulric. Tears roll down his face.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Thank you. You've... It's been so
hard...

Ulric gently places his claw on Andrew's should and nods.

ULRIC

Keep believing.

Ulric turns to Claire.

ULRIC (CONT'D)

It's time.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE Y-20 PLANE -DAY

Ulric with Claire on her back, flies out of the back opening of the Y-20 aircraft. They're very high above the ground.

Ulric is very excited.

ULRIC

Incredible. Look at all these
villages.

Claire holds on tightly, SCREAMING in fear.

EXT. MISTY LAKE - DAY

Ulric holds the wrapped sword as Claire and him stand on the shore besides a misty, magical lake. The island of Avalon is far off. They are silent.

Claire cautiously removes the wrapping.

Ulric grabs the sword, feeling a surge of energy.

He quickly throws Excalibur towards the lake.

Just before the sword hits the water, a magical, shining hand of a woman rises up and grabs the hilt.

The hand holds the sword then slowly lowers into the lake, out of sight.

CLAIRE

Wow. There're so many things we don't know.

ULRIC

And now I must depart.

Claire looks at him and tears appear.

CLAIRE

You bastard. I was just getting used to you.

ULRIC

I will miss you too.

Claire hugs the dragon and he wraps his wings around her. They both cry.

ULRIC (CONT'D)

Remember the knight's code. For you are and always shall be a knight of the Round Table.

CLAIRE

Maybe.

Ulric releases his hug.

ULRIC

A knight is sworn to serve with valor and faith. HER sword will protect the weak and defenseless.

CLAIRE

Don't bother.

Ulric flies up.

ULRIC

SHE will live by honor and for glory.

CLAIRE
I won't remember this.

Ulric flies towards the middle of the lake.

ULRIC
HER heart will love with loyalty.
HER might will champion against
injustice and evil.

Ulric plunges into the lake, out of sight.

Claire wipes tears from her face.

CLAIRE
(softly)
To the end.

INT. CLAIRE'S OFFICE - LATE AT NIGHT

Claire sits at her desk, working on her laptop. On top of credenza are a number of wrapped birthday gifts and a small cake with an unlit candle on it. Her door is open.

The Janitor walks in, slowly, cautiously, holding an empty trash bag.

JANITOR
I'm sorry to bother you, Ms. Einar.
I can come back later.

Claire stands up, very happy to see the Janitor.

CLAIRE
I've been waiting for you.

JANITOR
Did I do something wrong?

Claire motions to a chair in front of her desk.

CLAIRE
No, I did. Please sit. I understand
it's your birthday tomorrow.

Janitor moves slowly towards the chair, confused. He spots the gifts and cake.

JANITOR
That's true.

Claire smiles as the Janitor sits. She grabs the gifts and hands them to the Janitor.

CLAIRE
Happy birthday, Mark.

JANITOR
I don't understand.

CLAIRE
I finally do. Go ahead and open
them.

The Janitor relaxes.

JANITOR
Well, thank you, Ms. Einar. This
is... quite a surprise.

As the Janitor opens a gift, Claire turns her back to him. She reaches for the top of the candle on the cake. Unbeknownst to the Janitor, a small flame comes from her fingertip and she lights the candle.

FADE OUT.