

SOVEREIGN'S PAIN

BY

MICHAEL COLE

Email: mikechampion95@gmail.com

Phone Number: (732) 921-0373

FADE IN:

EXT. ROSEDAD - STREETS - DAY

Grey skies and THUNDER.

SUPER: THE KINGDOM OF ROSEDAD

All the buildings, hospitals, and schools are shaped like FLOWERS. The streets are decorated with withered purple roses and plant tendrils. It's quiet.

Two GUARDS, clad in purple and yellow armor with ROSE IMAGERY, brutally beat up a MAN on the sidewalk.

ROSEDAD GUARD #1
Don't you know the Curfew Law? Why
did you disobey the Queen's orders?

One guard KICKS the man in the stomach and he GROANS in pain.

MAN
My son is sick! I need to buy
medicine for him, please have
mercy!

The guards STOMP on his chest. People in their homes spectate, some turn away, and others cover their windows in fear and shame.

They finish beating the man. He's barely alive. They leave him.

The small group of guards rejoin a legion of guards marching down the streets. Their synchronized marching creates an OMINOUS TONE.

EXT. MAGIC MINE - NIGHT

THORNENCE

Guards march out of the city to the mine, and there's a sign above it.

INSERT - SIGN:

"THORNENCE MAGIC MINE"

The legion of guards stand in front of the mine and turn around.

CHANTING can be heard from a distance, the guards get into a ready position.

A LARGE CROWD of ARMED CIVILIANS approach the entrance of the mine.

GROUP OF CIVILIANS #1 (chant)	GROUP OF CIVILIANS #2 (chant)
Down with the Queen!	Free Rosedad!

TYRANT TAKER, bald, and dressed in elegant yellow robes with a dark green armored suit underneath, leads the crowd.

GUARD COMMANDER
(to guards)
Remember the Queen's orders! Do not
let anyone enter the mine at all
costs, do I make myself clear?

LEGION OF ROSEDAD GUARDS
Yes Commander!

The civilians charge the legion of guards still CHANTING.

The soldiers charge back, but they're greatly outnumbered by the angry crowd.

Some civilians manage to destroy the barricade.

INT. MAGIC MINE - NIGHT

Hordes of civilians enter the mine. They see sparkling MULTICOLORED MAGICAL ROCKS on the walls and the ceiling.

One civilian touches the wall with his bare hand -- his entire body COMBUSTS, burning into ash.

The civilians are horrified. Others pick up shovels and crowbars on the ground, and start to remove the glowing stones.

They mine pieces of the magical stones into buckets without directly touching them.

Tyrant Taker walks through and observes the mine.

TYRANT TAKER
Take heed, children of Rosedad!
Today will be the day we slay the
demon Queen Cassandra, and her
reign of disproportionate cruelty!
She'll know the power of the common
people!

The civilians CHEER.

Several civilians present Tyrant Taker with a bucket full of magical stones.

TYRANT TAKER (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Good, we can begin.

He turns around and removes his robe revealing a LARGE WHITE CIRCLE on his back.

Some of the civilians put on gloves and place the magic stones on the circle on his back.

The magic ABSORBS, his eyes become BRIGHT WHITE, his armored body BURNS, and he SCREAMS in pain. The stones turn BLACK.

Tyrant Taker clenches his fist, and feels the power of raw magic.

TYRANT TAKER (CONT'D)

Put another one on.

He SCREAMS in pain again.

TYRANT TAKER (CONT'D)

Another.

It happens a third time and he looks determined.

TYRANT TAKER (CONT'D)

Time to head to Rosetha Castle.

EXT. ROSETHA CASTLE - NIGHT

The largest building in Thornence, the castle is covered in GIANT THORNS, and has a GIANT ROSE on top of it.

INSERT - SYMBOL ON FRONT OF CASTLE:

"A rose lies on a sword"

INT. ROSETHA CASTLE - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Very regal. The walls have portraits of past Kings and Queens.

A SERVANT hastily runs and opens the throne room doors.

INT. ROSETHA CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

She enters to see CASSANDRA, QUEEN, a beautiful green-haired woman in an elegant purple dress, sitting on her throne.

SERVANT
Queen Cassandra!

Cassandra raises her hand to stop her.

CASSANDRA
That's Queen Cassandra Von Rosetha
to you, pig.

The servant gets down on both of her knees and bows her head.

SERVANT
Please forgive me, your highness.

CASSANDRA
Repeat that mistake and I'll put
your head on a pike.

SERVANT
Yes ma'am.

CASSANDRA
Now, what is it?

SERVANT
Your highness, the guards sent to
the mines have failed. The
civilians collected the rocks, and
they're on their way to the castle.

Cassandra SCOFFS.

CASSANDRA
Have any of the guards survived?

SERVANT
Yes, my Queen, some managed to
escape.

CASSANDRA
Remind me to make sure the guards
are severely beaten for their
incompetence.

SERVANT
Yes, your highness.

Cassandra gets up to look out a window. She sees the crowd
of REBEL CITIZENS from afar.

CASSANDRA
I'll deal with the bloody civilians
myself. Now leave!

The servant bows and immediately leaves the room.

Cassandra's cold, hardened face relaxes. She frowns with disappointment. She looks out the window again.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)
I don't blame any of you for doing
this..

EXT. EMPERNIA - STREETS - DAY

SUPER: THE KINGDOM OF EMPERNIA

The sky is polluted black.

The buildings are wrecked, some are on fire, and SCREAMS fill the air. It's mayhem incarnate!

SUPER-POWERED GUARDS wreak havoc, beating and robbing civilians.

A CIVILIAN crawls on the ground, backing away from an advancing EMPERNIA GUARD, clad in red, and gold with white fur trims, reaches the civilian.

He STOMPS on his back and puts his foot on his neck.

CIVILIAN #1
Please, I need this money to feed
my family!

The guard spits.

EMPERNIA GUARD #1
If you don't give the tax
willingly, the King takes.

The guard KICKS the man in the side.

CIVILIAN #1
How am I supposed provide for my
family if the king takes everything
I earn?

The guard becomes furious and begins beating him mercilessly.

EXT. EMPERNIA ROYAL CASTLE - DAY

The castle is dirty and damaged with a decaying symbol on it.

INSERT - CASTLE'S SYMBOL:

"The letter E with a CROWN on top of it."

INT. EMPERNIA CASTLE - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

It looks as bad as the outside. The walls are cracked, and the floors have holes.

INT. EMPERNIA CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

The throne room is trashed and messy.

ERIC, KING, a brown-haired man with a messy stubble, drunkenly slumps on his throne. Beer bottles surround his feet.

He's disheveled, barely awake, and uninterested in what's going on around him.

He slightly turns his head to see the chaos out the window, then turns to look at a painting of the last king and queen, his parents.

ERIC gets up and goes to the painting, sloppily raising his bottle.

ERIC
(angrily slurred)
Are you happy now? I did what you
wanted.

Eric takes a swig -- seven SENATORS enter the throne room and approach him. The LEAD SENATOR steps forward and bows.

LEAD SENATOR
Lord Eric George Emperlia.

KING ERIC
(annoyed)
What do you want?

LEAD SENATOR
Please, forgive my impertinence,
your highness.
(MORE)

LEAD SENATOR (CONT'D)

After the untimely demise of your parents, you became the king of this great nation, you sat on this throne since you were a child, and we've done all we can to mold you into becoming the benevolent ruler that Empernia desperately needs today.

Eric takes another drink from the bottle.

KING ERIC

Get to the point.

LEAD SENATOR

Despite our teachings, you still maintain the ideals of a dictator. Your actions are throwing the country into carnage, and you continue to insist that it's what your parents wanted from you.

Eric peers indifferently at the senators.

LEAD SENATOR (CONT'D)

We've come to a decision, your highness.

KING ERIC

What?

Eric begins to sober up and listens.

LEAD SENATOR

We're the ones that orchestrated the assassination of your parents, and like them, for Empernia to continue to flourish, you need to die.

Eric's eyes to widen and he stands up straight. He's angry.

All the senators suddenly pull out FIREARMS and aim at Eric.

LEAD SENATOR (CONT'D)

I do hope you will rejoin your parents.

The senators are about to pull their triggers -- Eric's eyes GLOW.

From thin air, Eric psychically creates seven GOLDEN KNIGHTS with shields. The knights block the GUNFIRE while Eric quickly moves behind his throne.

The senators stop shooting.

LEAD SENATOR (CONT'D)

Come out and surrender! We will not
kill you if you promise to leave
Empernia, and never return.

Eric emerges from behind the throne, covered head to toe in
red and gold ARMOR with a WHITE CAPE.

ERIC

What man would walk away from the
garbage that killed his parents?

Using the throne as leverage, Eric jumps towards the lead
senator. He lands a brutal KICK to their face, and
immediately drops to the floor.

A fight breaks out between Eric with his mental knights and
the traitorous senators.

Eric fights well using skilled hand-to-hand techniques. He
PUNCHES one senator and KICKS another. His mental knights
shield him from GUNFIRE.

Another senator swipes at Eric with a MACHETE. -- He tucks
and rolls to avoid it.

All the senators are defeated, lying across the throne room
floor. Eric SNAPS his fingers, and the knight constructs
DISPERSE.

Eric, out of BREATH, looks around, and processes the moment.
He's about to leave -- the lead senator GROANS, on the floor,
and he points his GUN at Eric.

LEAD SENATOR

I've always hated how you inherited
the royal family's powers. You
could've been the greatest leader,
and could've made Empernia the
greatest kingdom in the world! Yet
you chose to be just like your
savage parents. Give them my
regards, in hell.

The lead senator is about to pull the trigger, and Eric's
eyes GLOW again, but the lead senator's eyes begin to GLOW
too.

The lead senator hesitates to pull the trigger, he turns the
gun towards himself, pointing the gun at his head.

ERIC
 Someone's going to give regards to
 mother and father, but it won't me
 be.

Eric's eyes glow BRIGHTER as the senator FIRES the shot,
 executing himself.

His eyes stop glowing, takes off his helmet, he reaches for
 the bottle, and raises it.

ERIC (CONT'D)
 Mother. Father.

He spits on the body of the lead senator and takes a swig.

EXT. CITY - DAY

Light-gray sky.

SUPER: KINGDOM OF FORGETON

A river of lava flows through the city. Buildings shaped like
 ANVILS made of wood and metal, and there are several statues
 of the King next to a few buildings.

Citizens have armor on their clothes and most people are
 doing blacksmith activities all-around.

Other people can be seen conjuring technology from thin air
 by people when they type on a FLOATING VIRTUAL KEYBOARD.
 Someone summons a phone and another summons a car.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

A WOMAN (40s) prepares food and is nearly done.

WOMAN
 The food is ready! I won't call
 again.

A BOY and a GIRL enter and they see the food isn't ready yet.

BOY
 Where's the food, mom? You always
 call us too early.

WOMAN
 Stop complaining and go call your
 father.
 (to Girl)
 (MORE)

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Can you please help me put the food
on the table?

The boy runs out the room, and the woman and her daughter
bring the food to the table.

The boy enters back with his FATHER, and they all sit
together to eat at the table. They're about to eat until -- a
BULLDOZER knocks off the roof of the building.

The family panics and is terrified. A GUARD, clad in black,
purple, and red heated gloves enters.

FORGETON GUARD

Leave immediately. This location
will be used to place a new statue
of King Kasem.

THE FATHER

Where will we go? We don't have
anywhere else!

THE GUARD

Not my problem. Leave. Now.

THE FATHER

(desperate)

Let me talk to the King, then you
can do whatever you want.

The guard CHUCKLES

FORGETON GUARD

Do you think the King has time for
street trash like you? Everyone
knows he doesn't talk to anyone
outside the castle.

THE FATHER

Please, rethink your decision. I
beg you!

FORGETON GUARD

(points to kids)

If you don't leave now, your family
goes into the river. Kids first.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The family stand watching their home being destroyed with
tearful eyes.

EXT. FORGETON CASTLE - ENTRANCE - DAY

The logo on the castle is a BLACKSMITH'S FIREPLACE. A waterfall of lava decorates the front of the castle.

INT. FORGETON CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY (SAME)

Seems like a blacksmith's shop. The throne sits upon a pile of tools, weapons, and armor.

The KING, KASEM, large, tan-skinned, burly man with a raven-haired mohawk. He's doing blacksmith work, stuck in his own world.

The door opens and his ADVISOR, a tall brown woman, enters.

Kasem doesn't notice her, drowned in his work. The advisor approaches him.

THE ADVISOR

King Forgerai.

Kasem jumps when his advisor makes herself present.

KASEM

You startled me!

THE ADVISOR

Forgive me, your highness.

KASEM

It's fine. What is it?

He continues to work.

ADVISOR

The construction of another statue in your likeness has started, but it's caused another family to become homeless. That makes ten this week.

Kasem stops working.

KASEM

What happened to the family?

The advisor looks at him suspiciously.

THE ADVISOR

I don't know your highness. Why do you care?

Kasem catches himself.

KASEM

I don't.

ADVISOR

I'll leave you with your work.

The advisor bows and leaves.

Kasem SIGHS wearily, clearly troubled.

He continues to work. BLACK MIST forms behind him, blending with the smoke caused by the heat.

The black mist takes the physical form of a WOMAN in tan and blue camouflage, and a hooded mask concealing her face.

The woman, REGICIDA, pulls out a knife, and hurls it at Kasem's back.

CLANG! The knife falls to the ground -- Kasem wears armor under his clothes. He quickly turns and sees Regicida. He freaks out and activates his virtual keyboard.

Regicida prepares to throw more knives at him and -- Kasem's armor materializes on him.

It's a BLACK SUIT with purple and yellow. The hands and shoes are BURNING RED.

REGICIDA

I wish I could've done this without a fight.

She pulls out a BLADE and points it at him.

REGICIDA (CONT'D)

The people of Forgeton have called for your death, and they will have it!

KASEM

Oh God, oh God, oh God!

He uses his keyboard to summon a LARGE HAMMER.

A fight between the two breaks out. Regicida has some amazing moves, and Kasem fights back while still being terrified.

The blade and hammer constantly collide -- but with Kasem's strength and might, his hammer wins.

Kasem summons a CANNON and FIRES it at Regicida -- it KNOCKS her into a pile of armor, and he starts to breathe easy, relieved.

Regicida ROARS, breaking out of the mountain of armor with two KNIVES, attempting to impale Kasem.

Kasem catches her wrists, his molten gloves BURNS her, and she CRIES in agony.

He HEAD BUTTS her, knocking her out cold, then takes off his helmet. He's drenched in sweat.

KASEM (CONT'D)

Please be done...

The advisor rushes into the room and sees Regicida on the ground

INT. ROSETHA CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Cassandra sits on her throne wearing purple and yellow ARMOR with a YELLOW CAPE, roses and thorns adorn the outfit. She holds a HELMET in her hands.

She stares intently at the door, hearing the escalating MUFFLED UPROAR. Tyrant Taker enters and gently closes the doors behind him.

TYRANT TAKER

Your highness, I'm going to be direct with you. If you stand down, I'll grant you something you've never granted the people...Mercy.

Cassandra LAUGHS WICKEDLY.

CASSANDRA

So, you're the so-called Tyrant Taker I've heard about!

She crosses her legs.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)

Never in the Rosetha family's rule has there ever been a successful rebellion. What makes you think it'll be different now?

Tyrant Taker's body begins to GLOW.

TYRANT TAKER

I have the power of your precious
magic on my side.

Cassandra gets up from the throne, and a long THORN protrudes
out of the arm of her armor.

She throws it at Tyrant Taker and IMPALES his shoulder to his
bewilderment. Cassandra puts on her helmet.

CASSANDRA

Using magic to power your suit? Not
an original concept around here.

Cassandra swings on a MAGIC VINE wrapped on her arm around
the room, as Tyrant Taker FIRES at her with destructive MAGIC
BLASTS.

She FIRES more thorns at him while still swinging the magic
vine. Taker DODGES them.

Tyrant Taker gets a HIT at Cassandra's vine causing her to
fall. She lands and rolls, he engages her directly and they
continue to brawl.

He manages to get Cassandra into a CHOKEHOLD from behind, and
tries to suffocate her.

TYRANT TAKER

In death, you'll learn, freedom
always beats tyranny.

CASSANDRA

(strained)

Make sure a rose has no more thorns
when you hold it.

THORNS suddenly SPROUT from Cassandra's whole body -- Taker
SCREAMS in pain.

He falls to the ground, grievously injured with multiple
wounds on his body.

Two ROYAL GUARDS enter and see the Queen victorious on the
floor. She gets up and looks at the guards.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)

Tell my disobedient subjects that
their hero has failed.

One of the guards quickly run outside.

Cassandra points to the defeated Tyrant Taker.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)
 Have him executed in front of the
 people. Teach them a lesson they'll
 never forget.

The guard obliges and drags an injured, but still alive,
 Taker away.

TYRANT TAKER
 (weakly)
 Soon, your tyranny will burn,
 crumble away, and so will you.

Cassandra sits on her throne.

CASSANDRA
 Here in Rosedad, history will
 always repeat itself, it's mine to
 control.

Taker helplessly SCREAMS as the guards continue to drag him
 away, and the doors close behind them.

Cassandra EXHALES in weary guilt and takes off her helmet.
 She pulls out her phone and initiates a group call with two
 other people. Eric and Kasem answer.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)
 (into phone)
 Hi guys, how are you doing?

INT. FORGETON CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Kasem sits on his throne, exhausted.

KASEM
 (into phone)
 It's been an eventful day, I just
 fought off an assassin.

INT. EMPERNIA CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Eric slouches on his throne holding a whiskey bottle, while
 on the phone, and takes a sip.

ERIC
 (into phone)
 I just avenged my family.

INTERCUT BETWEEN CASSANDRA, KASEM, AND ERIC

KASEM

Congratulations Eric--

ERIC

Don't. It still didn't bring them back, so what's the point?

CASSANDRA

I ordered the leader of a rebellion to be executed. It's sad, unfortunate, and the world will never forgive us, but it needs to be done. We know what'll happen if any of our kingdoms have peace.

INT. ROSETHA CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Cassandra, Eric, and Kasem are young KIDS. They sit together.

In front of them are their PARENTS.

CASSANDRA'S MOM

Children, do you know why our three kingdoms are allies? And why we treat our citizens horribly?

The kids shake their heads no.

CASSANDRA'S MOM (CONT'D)

Because we're all under one curse.

Kasem's father activates a virtual keyboard displaying a screen.

INSERT - SCREEN:

"The people of the three kingdoms horrifically burn and die, followed by continents of the world. The whole planet burns and withers."

The kids are terrified.

CASSANDRA'S MOM (CONT'D)

Centuries ago, all three of our kingdoms fell upon an ancient curse. Who cast it, and why? No one knows. If any one of our kingdoms experience a moment of peace, it'll lead to the end of the world, and all life on it.

(MORE)

CASSANDRA'S MOM (CONT'D)

This is a closely guarded secret
among the royal families.

ERIC'S FATHER steps up.

ERIC'S FATHER

We currently bear the burden of
being tyrants, and someday that
burden will fall upon you. We don't
want that for any of you, but we
don't have a choice.

The three kids look at each other concerned. Young Cassandra
looks at her mother.

YOUNG CASSANDRA

We have to be bad people to save
the world?

Cassandra's mother kneels and grabs Cassandra's shoulders.

CASSANDRA'S MOM

Yes, love.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. ROSETHA CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

CASSANDRA'S MOM (V.O.)

All three of you must bear the
agony of a sovereign's pain.

CASSANDRA

We know what we need to do, right?

Eric and Kasem nod.

END INTERCUT.

Cassandra has a determined look on her face, while still on
the phone.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Good.

FADE TO BLACK.