



# LEGENDARY

A NEW ADVENTURE

DRAFT 5

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## ADVENTURE HAS CHOSEN

### SETTING

Sockeye's Restaurant & The World of Ebo-Racūm Novūm

### TIME

Today

### STAGE NOTES

A (/) indicates where a new line begins.

### CHARACTERS

FLIP	(18) MALE
SARAH	(18) FEMALE
ROWAN	(17) MALE
THE ELDER	(?) MALE
THE AUTHOR	(?) MALE
QUĪNNTALIA	(18) FEMALE
AVĒ FEMINA	(18) FEMALE
SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR	(50-80) MALE
CHARLEMAGNE	(18) MALE
OTTO	(16) MALE
JOE	(30's) MALE
MYLEI	(18) FEMALE
OFFICER SPOTSHOT	(30'S) MALE
HICK	(18) MALE
FATHER MINNOW	(30's) MALE
MOTHER MINNOW	(30's) FEMALE
HANNAH MINNOW	(10) FEMALE

### ADDITIONAL SASP ROLES

Woodland Guard  
Gringlegurt the Orc  
Ringlehurt the Orc

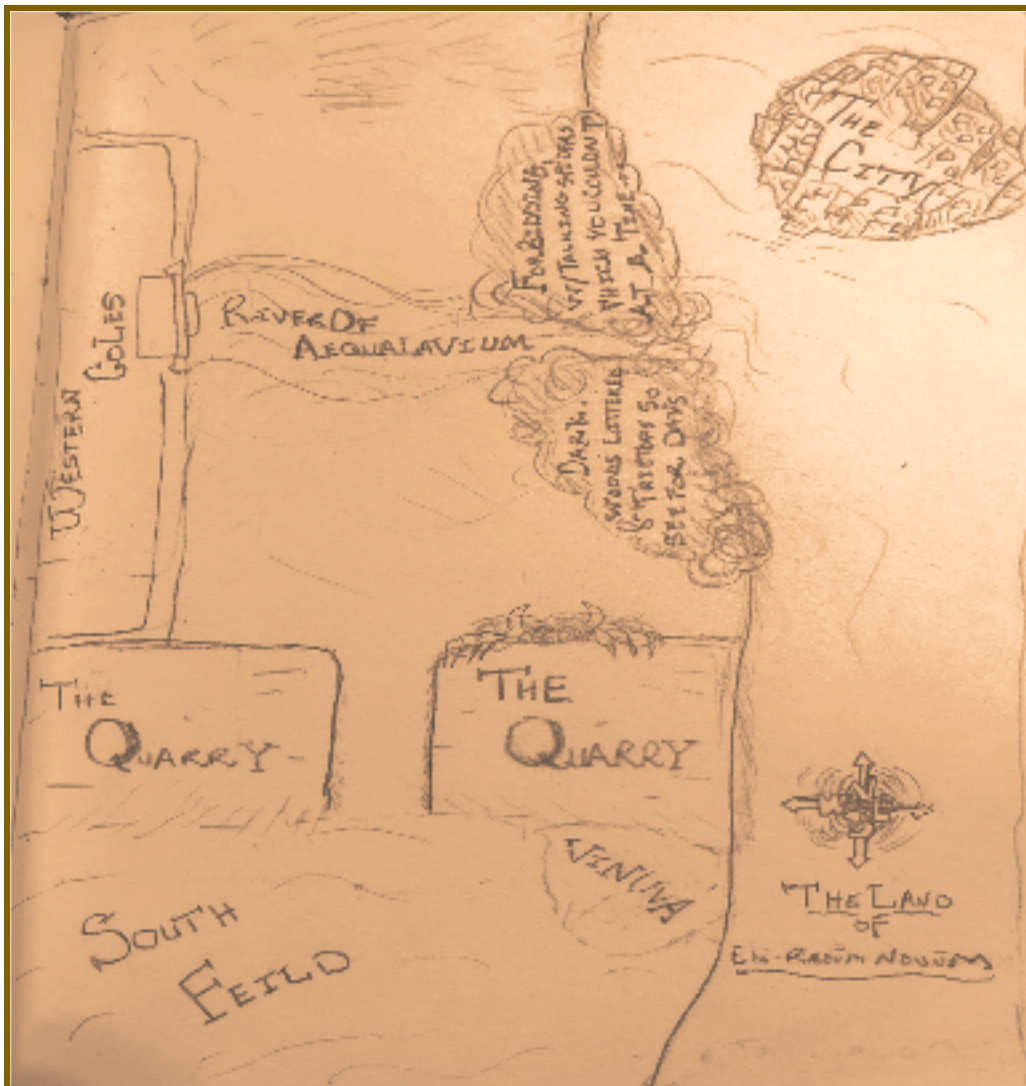
Madge the Innkeeper  
The Shape  
The Sirens

City Goers  
Sockeye the Dragon  
The Giant

PRONUNCIATIONS

(When in doubt: Latin)

Ebo-Racūm Novūm	(Ee-Bow-dRah-Coom) (No- Voom)	<i>Place:</i> The world of LEGENDARY.
Avē Femina	(Ah-Vey) (Fem-in-uh)	<i>Person:</i> Captain of the Woodland Guard.
Quīnntalia	(Kwinn-Tall-e-uh)	<i>Person:</i> Queen of the Woodlands.
The Blade of Durendal	(Duur-in-Doll)	<i>Thing.</i> A weapon.
Schmeldric Proditor	(Shh-Mel-Drik) (Pra-di-tore)	<i>Person.</i> A Woodland Traitor.
Vinuva	(Vin-oo-va)	<i>Place:</i> A small, southern town.
The Dice of Vigintī Imaginīs Latērūm  Faciēs	(Vee-Gin-Tee) (Ee-Ma-Gee-Niece) (La-Tear-um) (Fah-Chez)	<i>Thing:</i> A D20 of fabled power.

CONCEPT MAPArtistic Rendition courtesy  
of Bre Arredondo

## START OF ACT 1

### PROLOGUE

*Flip's bed.*

*(FLIP, an 18 year-old slacker, lays asleep in his bedroom in a nondescript basement. Above him, THE ELDER speaks.)*

THE ELDER

Adventure chooses at a whim. It is not specific with the heroes it endows itself with. It is not judgemental of those it enlists to take parts in the tales they will craft. Adventure finds those who are least expected, least likely, and most usually least willing to set off. But when Adventure calls...

*(FLIP'S PHONE begins vibrating, waking him.)*

It is wise to answer. For who could adventure be calling upon?

*(Recognizing the caller:)*

FLIP

SHIT! I'm late!

*(FLIP begins racing around, throwing on clothes, grabbing the things he needs.)*

THE ELDER

Some may refer to these people called upon as specific things. *Heroes, The Chosen, Marauders...* But I assure you there is only one way to describe those called upon by fortune. And it's whispered as softly as the wind which calls your name:  
Adventurer.

*(Wind blows and mystery stirs with the word.)*

Questioning those who craft  
Adventure is unwise. For it is the

(MORE)

unlikely individuals, such as young Philip here, who have proven time and time again that they are worthy of answering the call.

*(FLIP makes sure he has everything then grabs his MOTORBIKE HELMET. He EXITS. He returns, grabbing his keys, exiting with a BEEP BEEP.)*

Fable states, after all, *"There is a lot more in him than you may guess. And a deal more than he has any idea of himself. You may (possibly) all live to thank me yet."*

\*J.R.R TOLKIEN'S *THE HOBBIT*

*(THE ELDER disappears.)*

*END PROLOGUE.*

SCENE 1

*Sockeye's. 2 weeks after  
Graduation.*

*(FLIP'S quaint and implicative  
bedroom leaves to reveal  
SOCKEYE'S CASTLE: a fast food  
restaurant with a medieval  
theme.)*

*(The sound of FLIP parking his  
motorbike, FLIP ENTERS.)*

FLIP

Hey! Sorry I'm late. Had to push  
the bike the last three blocks.

*(JOE, 30, a middle aged fast  
food chain manager, has been  
holding customers at bay  
waiting for FLIP to arrive.)*

*(FLIP ENTERS.)*

JOE

Sir Phillip!

FLIP

Just Flip, actually. Sir Phillip  
was my father.

*(FLIP busies himself getting  
the store back in order. It's  
a heavy rush.)*

MYLEI

Took you long enough.

FLIP

You're just lucky I came.

MYLEI

You don't say that to all the  
girls, do you?

JOE

The more thou chit chats the more  
customers whom get their money  
back!

FLIP

Now that wasn't very Sockeye's of

(MORE)

FLIP (CONT'D)

you, Joe.

JOE

I shall choke you. you little...

*(Into his headset:)*

Welcome to Sockeye's Castle. We're on a quest to slay your hunger!

*(He wanders off.)*

MYLEI

You're going to get yourself killed.

FLIP

I'm not quite that lucky.

HICK

You're trying to get lucky?

*(HICK and his CRONIES have ENTERED.)*

FLIP

Hey, Charlie. What can I get you?

HICK

I was talking to her.

*(He gestures to MYLEI.)*

MYLEI

*(Bashful:)*

Oh my God, stop.

*(FLIP rolls his eyes.)*

FLIP

Look, dude. Are you going to order something?

HICK

Chill, Minimus Wage. I'm just looking still.

CRONY

Yeah, Hick's still looking.

FLIP

*(To HICK:)*

Your friends call you *Hick*?

MYLEI  
We call you Flip!

*(FLIP tries to hush her.)*

HICK  
Hold on, hold on. You're FLIP. THE  
BURGER FLIPPER?

*(HICK and his CRONY explode  
into outrageous laughter.)*

FLIP  
What do you want, dude?

HICK  
Gimme a number one, Sockeye Style.  
Some Dragon's Breath wings for the  
boys.

FLIP  
Right, total's going to be \$15.74--

HICK  
Ah, not so fast. You still got that  
Minute Maiden Lemonade?

FLIP  
*(Gestures to the soda  
machine:)*  
You still ask stupid questions?

CRONY  
Ooooo....

HICK  
Cute. Say, that Jew kid with the  
glasses isn't working with you  
today, is he?

*(FLIP stops taking down HICK'S  
order. Even MYLEI stops cold.)*  
He must've clocked out already.  
Hung his apron up?  
Tell your boyfriend I said hi next  
time you see him. You want me and  
the boys to arrange the meeting?

*(HICK slaps some money on the  
table and snags a cup out of  
FLIP'S hand before wandering  
away with his CRONY in tow.)*



*(Time passes, we arrive to the end of the night.)*

JOE

Mylei, take off. Flip will finish up around here for us.

MYLEI

Aw, Flip. That's sweet of you.

FLIP

What I'm here for I guess.

*(MYLEI tosses the broom she was using to FLIP and puts on her coat. She's headed to the door.)*

MYLEI

You working tomorrow, Flip?

FLIP

Every day 'til the day I die, Mylei.

MYLEI

I'll see you then.

*(A final glance and she's out the door leaving just FLIP and JOE.)*

*(FLIP begins sweeping up the floor.)*

JOE

Sir Phillip? Let's talk here for a second.

FLIP

Yeah, Schmo Joe?

JOE

Look, kid. You don't seem happy here.

FLIP

At Sockeye's Castle? With the plastic dragon out front? Gee, Joe. What more in the world could I want?

JOE

I worry about you. You seem so determined to throw your life away. You come in late, you argue with the customers... It's time you moved on to something better?

FLIP

Like what?

JOE

Go to college, kid! Enjoy the rest of your summer, save up some cash working weekends here and enroll next semester at the community college. You don't have to spend the rest of your life flipping burgers. Look at me. I'm a thirty year-old man dressed like it's the Crusades.

FLIP

30?

JOE

Don't be a brat.

FLIP

Look, Joe. I appreciate it. I really do. You taking your time to do this whole "full potential" chat is really kind of you. But I'm gonna tell you the same thing I've told teachers and guidance counselors and moms alike: you just need to accept that some people are not destined for this greatness everyone is so obsessed with. I'm not going to change the world or save people from some great evil. I'm just getting by, okay? And I'm happy with that.

JOE

You sell yourself short.

FLIP

No, Joe. You give me too much credit. Give me one reason I've given you to see so much in me.

*(JOE is silent for a moment.)*

*(JOE puts the keys down on the counter.)*

JOE

I'm headed home for the night. If I leave now I can see the girls before they go to bed. You're locking up tonight. You know everything that needs to get done?

FLIP

Joe, I can't--

JOE

It's about time someone trusted you with a little more responsibility. I'll see you tomorrow to open up. Don't forget the keys.

*(JOE makes it to the door.)*

FLIP

Joe?

JOE

*(SOCKEYE'S VOICE:)*

Good'morrow, Sir Phillip.

*(JOE EXITS.)*

*(FLIP grabs the keys and shakes off some momentary disbelief. He then continues sweeping the floor. A voice from behind makes him jump.)*

THE ELDER

First time closing up shop?

FLIP

Uh... I'm sorry, sir. We're closed.

*(THE ELDER stands from the table where he was finishing a hamburger. He's dressed in a suit.)*

THE ELDER

Of course, I was just leaving. You make an exceptional burger.

FLIP

Thanks.

*(He thinks for a moment.)*

Mom's recipe.

*(THE ELDER laughs.)*

THE ELDER

You're funny, Flippicus. You truly are.

*(Beat.)*

I'd like to give you something.

FLIP

I'm sorry sir, we can't take tips or nothing. I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

*(THE ELDER reaches into his pocket and pulls out a D20. He tosses it to FLIP.)*

FLIP (CONT'D)

A dice?

THE ELDER

A die, young one.

*(BEAT.)*

FLIP

Thanks. You still have to leave--

THE ELDER

I was on my way out.

*(THE ELDER grabs a napkin and wipes his mouth, then his beard. He clears his throat and lights a pipe.)*

I'll see you soon, Flippicus.

*(THE ELDER walks out the door. FLIP runs over and locks the it, then tries fanning the smoke out of the room. He stares at the D20 for a moment.)*

FLIP

Weird.

*(FLIP throws the die in his pocket and goes about the closing routine. He puts things up, continues cleaning, generally setting things up for the next day. He works more carefully than ever before, making sure to do a good job. He hums to himself while he cleans. Suddenly he sees a box of some food left out in the open. FLIP lugs it over to the lock in freezer and opens the heavy freezer door. He moves inside before dropping the box on the ground. THE ELDER appears, no longer in a suit, in his STUDY alongside THE AUTHOR. THE AUTHOR sits down at an ancient looking typewriter while THE ELDER looks over a map of an unfamiliar land.)*

THE ELDER

It's time.

THE AUTHOR

Are you sure?

THE ELDER

Of course I'm sure. Ready yourself.

*(THE AUTHOR poises himself.)*

THE AUTHOR

I am prepared.

THE ELDER

Good. Let the adventure begin.

*(THE ELDER glides his hand over the world. Suddenly, the walk-in freezer's door swings closed with a deafening bang. FLIP turns around, half panicked, half in disbelief.)*

FLIP

Oh shit. No.

No, no, no, no, NO!

*(He's slamming his fists on the door, pushing against it with all his might. It's useless. He turns around.)*

FLIP

Joe's going to be pissed.

*(LIGHTS DOWN in the LOCK-IN FREEZER. LIGHTS UP. FLIP has taken refuge on the floor, curled up for warmth, shivering. Meanwhile, THE ELDER steps center stage. LIGHTS DOWN in the LOCK-IN.)*

THE ELDER

This is where young Phillip's adventure would begin. There, trapped in that icy prison, facing eminent peril, Flippicus would soon realize that he was destined for something greater. Something beyond his control. Something larger than he himself or I or anyone for that matter. But first he needed to survive the cold. First he needed to find himself somewhere he had never been. First he simply needed to wake up.

*(The final "WAKE UP..." echoes and repeats and bounces off the walls as the LIGHTS GO DOWN.)*

END SCENE.

SCENE 2

*EBO-RACŪM NOVŪM. The SOUTH  
FIELD.*

SARAH

WAKE UP!

FLIP

Huh!?

*(FLIP wakes up in alarm to  
SARAH, 18, an Elf who is  
hunched over him pointing a  
sword directly at his throat.)*

SARAH

I said wake up!

FLIP

I am!

SARAH

Good. Get up.

*(SARAH pulls him to his feet.)*

FLIP

*(Confused:)*

What... What... What do you want?  
Who are you?

SARAH

Are you blind?

FLIP

What?

SARAH

I SAID: ARE YOU BLIND?

FLIP

No!

*(BEAT.)*

Why?

SARAH

Well. I happened to be passing by  
and I noticed you were asleep over  
here and I thought I'd have a go  
through that gear you've got o'er.

*(She gestures to a lone pack.)*

*(FLIP takes notice of the gear laying a few yards away. Then of the new clothes he has on: the uniform of an adventurer complete with boots, leather straps, and a hilt.)*

FLIP

How did I--

SARAH

*(Interrupting:)*

But then I remembered my father told me never to steal from a blind man. So I had to wake you up and make sure you weren't blind.

FLIP

Oh. Thanks. I'm not.

SARAH

No worries. Now if you'll excuse me...

*(She knocks him on his back.)*

You're being robbed.

*(SARAH digs through his bags.)*

FLIP

I'm sorry, but I don't know where I am.

*(SARAH pulls out the D20 THE ELDER had given to FLIP.)*

SARAH

Nice dice.

FLIP

It's a die, actually.

SARAH

*(Still digging through his things:)*

You're in the South Fields. Are you a drunk?



FLIP  
No, a fry cook last time I checked.

SARAH  
You have nothing in here.

FLIP  
I'm not even sure those are mine.

SARAH  
Sorry, but I can't  
be of much help.

FLIP  
Look. Could you show  
me where to get some  
help?

SARAH  
This is a funny looking weapon.

*(She pulls out a SPATULA from  
his gear.)*

FLIP  
My name is Phillip. People call me  
Flip.

*(BEAT. SARAH stands in awe.  
She puts the SPATULA up in  
front of him.)*

SARAH  
No.

FLIP  
Yes?

SARAH  
You're... You're Flippicus.

FLIP  
It's just Flip, actually.

*(SARAH drops to one knee and  
bows her head.)*

SARAH  
The Elves of my tribe--

FLIP  
*(Snickering:)*  
Elves?

SARAH

The Elves of my tribe have traded tales of your forthcoming for many millennium.

FLIP

Why'd you start talking like that?

SARAH

It is an honor to be in the presence of such a noble adventurer.

*(FLIP pulls SARAH to her feet.)*

FLIP

Look, lady. You've got it all wrong. I'm just trying to get back home. Or to work. Do you know where Sockeye's is? Off the interstate?

SARAH

But... Your tale of glory has been recounted all throughout the land of Ebo-Racūm Novūm.

FLIP

Dude, I'm from Fresno.

*(A moment.)*

SARAH

Well. It was an honor to meet you great adventurer but I must be off. I, too, have great quests to embark upon.

FLIP

Okay...

*(Aside:)*

Crazy Elf lady.

SARAH

What was that?

FLIP

Uh, "Keep yourself shady!"

*(He wipes the sweat from his brow, indicating how hot it is. Finger guns.)*

*(SARAH scoffs.)*

SARAH

So long, "brave" adventurer.

*(FLIP grabs his bag. He takes the SPATULA in his hand and brandishes it like a weapon before shrugging and fashioning it to his hilt. SARAH watches out of the corner of her eye, nodding her head.)*

*(BEAT.)*

*(FLIP begins slapping himself.)*

FLIP

WAKE UP, FLIP! WAKE UP, WAKE UP,  
WAKE UP!

*(SARAH grabs his hand.)*

SARAH

Stop it! Stop! You're not asleep.  
Look, you said you want to go home,  
right?

FLIP

Yeah.

SARAH

Well, you're as good as dead out  
here by yourself. I don't know  
where exactly you're trying to get  
to but I was headed up North. To  
The City. It sounds like your  
journey home is a bigger problem  
than I can fix but if there's  
anyone who can, they'll be up  
there.

FLIP

The City?

SARAH

Yes. The City. It's just a few days  
North from here, guided by the  
Northern Star of Jupico. You're  
welcome to travel with me.

*(FLIP thinks for a moment.)*

FLIP

You sure that's the only way?

SARAH

It's that, or find yourself face to  
face with a band of South Field  
Walking King Snakes.

FLIP

*(To himself:)*

The *Walking King Snakes* **is** a really  
good band name.

*(To SARAH:)*

Alright. The City it is.

*(SARAH gives an Elvish Salute.  
FLIP awkwardly reciprocates  
the gesture.)*

SARAH

Alright. We're off.

*END SCENE.*

SCENE 3*THE ELDER'S STUDY*

THE AUTHOR

*(Typing:)*

"And that is how Flippicus the  
Brave united with Sarah of the  
Elves."

*(He tugs the page out of the  
typewriter and admires it.)*

THE ELDER

His name is not "Flippicus the  
Brave."

THE AUTHOR

And why not?

*(A SCREECH interrupts them.)*

What was that?

THE ELDER

Nothing. Someone is hungry is all.

*(He goes to his cupboard.)*

THE AUTHOR

That's not a--

THE ELDER

Quiet.

THE AUTHOR

You know you're not supposed to  
hold on to those.

THE ELDER

Focus, would you? We were  
discussing Flippicus.

THE AUTHOR

Oh, yes. Why can't he be "Flippicus  
the Brave?"

THE ELDER

Because he's not brave. Not yet.  
He's not anything yet. He's  
nothing. He's only--

THE AUTHOR  
Flippicus?

THE ELDER  
Beginning. He's only beginning.

*(THE AUTHOR nods, crumples the page, and begins typing a new one.)*

There's still much story to tell.

*(To the SCREECH in the cupboard:)*

Patience, friend. /Patience.

*(A TAVERN/INN is created.)*

ROWAN  
/Patience, boys. I've got a lucky roll coming. Something you Orcs wouldn't know a thing about.

*(A game of Liar's Dice is taking place. ROWAN, 17, a Halfling with large spectacles made of fused metal and wood with multiple lenses is running the show. A small crowd is formed around he and two other players.)*

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC

*(Grunting:)*

Hurry it up, half-pint.

RINGLEHURT THE ORC

*(Grunting:)*

We've got more games to play.

*(ROWAN rolls his dice, cupping them and peeking.)*

ROWAN

*(Off his peek:)*

And bets to lose.  
Two fives.

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC  
Four fives.

RINGLEHURT THE ORC  
Six fives.

*(SARAH and FLIP enter the  
TAVERN. Exhausted. FLIP spots  
ROWAN and stares in vague  
remembrance and disbelief.)*

FLIP

*(To himself:)*

Rowan?

ROWAN  
Seven fives.

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC  
IMPOSSIBLE! I challenge you,  
halfling.

ROWAN  
You heard the man, cups up.

*(GRINGLEGURT and RINGLEHURT  
lift their cup and begin  
counting intensely.)*

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC  
See, Ringlehurt only rolled one  
two!

RINGLEHURT THE ORC  
And Gringlegurt only rolled one  
two!

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC  
Which means there is practically no  
way that you...

ROWAN  
What?

*(He lifts his cup to reveal  
his dice.)*

Rolled five twos?

*(The Orcs stare in disbelief.)*

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC  
BLASTED, GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!

RINGLEHURT THE ORC  
SONUVUH BOG WITCH!

*(ROWAN chuckles and sweeps his*

*dice in. He then takes a gold piece from each Orc before sending them off. ROWAN crosses to the INNKEEPER.)*

INNKEEPER

You.

ROWAN

Hey, Madge. Got you a little something.

*(He hands her the gold.)*

INNKEEPER

Perfect. This will cover the first two nights. Where's last weeks'?

ROWAN

What?

*(He takes the gold back and counts, switching the lens on his eyeglass.)*

I'll just have to win that tomorrow.

INNKEEPER

That's it! You're out of my inn.

ROWAN

Come now, I don't have anywhere to go!

INNKEEPER

Not my problem, bub. You can't pay, you can't stay.

ROWAN

Please, Madge! I'll do anything.

INNKEEPER

Incorrect. You will do one something. And that something is leaving this inn.

ROWAN

You can't just kick me out!

INNKEEPER

*(Pointing down:)*

My inn.



*(Pointing to ROWAN:)*

You're out.

ROWAN

Fine. Let me just get my gear out of my room.

*(The INNKEEPER hands him the key. He heads up to the room to get his things.)*

FLIP

Sarah, Sarah! Did you see that kid?

SARAH

What? The Orcs?

FLIP

Ah... No? No, the kid with the eyeglasses.

SARAH

*(Hardly amused:)*

Oh, yes. The Halfling.

FLIP

Right sure, okay. I think I know him.

*(The INNKEEPER approaches SARAH and FLIP.)*

INNKEEPER

Could I get you kids something?

SARAH

Two ales, please.

INNKEEPER

Ah, anything else?

SARAH

Dirt in the water.

INNKEEPER

If you insist.

*(FLIP looks confusedly.)*

SARAH

It means we're... *Adventurers*. We don't have money but we can pay by

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

other means.

FLIP

So she's doing us a solid?

SARAH

She'll have a quest for us. It's how we'll get ourselves to the city, embarking on quests.

FLIP

Don't you just have a horse or something?

*(SARAH looks at him for a moment.)*

SARAH

Sometimes the wisest thing for a man to say is nothing at all.

*(FLIP stares at her, deciphering. The INNKEEPER returns.)*

INNKEEPER

Two ales. Dirt in the water.

*(She winks and EXITS.)*

*(SARAH and FLIP drink their ales in silence.)*

FLIP

This tastes like piss.

*(SARAH shrugs.)*

So... Being an Elf... Really cool.

SARAH

It's not all "really cool" actually. If, by "really cool," you mean, "extremely easy" then no. It's not "really cool."

FLIP

But you have a bow!

SARAH

Anyone can have a bow.

FLIP

I couldn't have a bow, would you

(MORE)

FLIP (CONT'D)

trust me with a bow?

*(BEAT.)*

SARAH

Most anyone can have a bow.

FLIP

Cool.

*(They sip their ale.)*

SARAH

But it's difficult being an Elf.  
Elves live in tribes. Being without  
a tribe is the hardest path for an  
Elf to endure.

FLIP

So... Where's your tribe?

*(Suddenly:)*

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC

Wait a minute... No matter how you  
roll this bastard's dice, they  
always land on five. Look!

*(GRINGLEGURT rolls the dice  
again. All fives. General  
dissonance ensues.)*

That pebble owes me back my gold!

RINGLEHURT THE ORC

And mine, too!

*(People throughout the tavern  
start claiming, "and mine,  
too!" until there's a general  
roar of anger. The INNKEEPER  
struggles to keep everyone  
calm.)*

INNKEEPER

Please, everyone. Calm yourselves,  
we'll find the Halfling.

RINGLEHURT THE ORC

I'm going to break his eyeglasses  
in two!

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC

I'm going to break him in two!

*(ROWAN appears at the top of the tavern holding a rope.)*

ROWAN

If you'll excuse me, it's about time I left.

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC

Get him!

*(ROWAN equips his slingshot and fires a bead into GRINGLEGURT'S eye sending him wailing in pain. ROWAN then clutches the rope and swings for the door.)*

INNKEEPER

Somebody stop that Halfling!

*(She looks to FLIP and SARAH.)*

Dirt in the water!

*(SARAH throws back her ale.)*

SARAH

Quest time!

FLIP

That was quick.

*(They take off after ROWAN.)*

*(GRINGLEGURT and RINGLEHURT follow after. The TAVERN/INN disappears giving way to the small town of VINUVA. SARAH and FLIP enter an alley.)*

SARAH

Come along! He fled around here.

FLIP

Just a second, my side hurts.

SARAH

*(Calling out:)*

Reveal yourself and pay for your dishonesty! Your consequences will be much less severe when you do!

FLIP

Sarah, that's not going to work.

*(ROWAN appears, slingshot  
poised.)*

ROWAN

What do you know? Do you know what  
those Orcs are going to do if they  
get their hands on me?

*(SARAH reaches to arm her bow  
but is stopped when ROWAN  
pulls back even farther on his  
slingshot.)*

ROWAN (CONT'D)

Move that bow another inch and  
you'll have a Ferry Seas pebble  
right where your eye is.

*(FLIP stares in disbelief.)*

FLIP

*(Softly:)*

Rowan?

*(ROWAN looks up at the sound  
of his name.)*

ROWAN

How do you know--

SARAH

*(Interrupting:)*

We promise you no harm if you  
return with us to the--

ROWAN

Shut up, pointy-ears.

*(To FLIP:)*

How do you know my name?

FLIP

It's me, Rowan. It's Flip.

ROWAN

I haven't seen you a day in my  
life. I'd know. You humans are  
impossible to miss. Bumbling

(MORE)

ROWAN (CONT'D)

around. Leaving your footprint on everything you find.

SARAH  
Now he's talking sense.

ROWAN  
Quiet! You thousand year old magicians aren't much better. I've never met an Elf I liked.

FLIP  
And what about a Human?

ROWAN  
I've never met a Human.

*(BEAT.)*

FLIP  
Sarah, let him go.

SARAH  
What?

FLIP  
He didn't mean any harm.

SARAH  
He's a swindler.

FLIP  
He doesn't have any money! Look at him. He's just trying to get by, just like us.

*(SARAH ponders for a moment.)*

SARAH  
And what if he tries to rob us the moment we let him go?

FLIP  
You tried to rob me when we met.

*(ROWAN snickers.)*

ROWAN  
Elf.

SARAH  
Halfling.

FLIP

Human! What's it matter? I just want to get home. And chasing down a half-blood..?

ROWAN

Half-*ling*.

FLIP

Yeah, right-- Isn't going to get me there.

*(Everyone nods in agreement.)*

Rowan, I don't know what's going on right now, but do you know how I can get back home? Or to Sockeye's?

ROWAN

I don't even know who you are. But thanks.

*(He glances at SARAH.)*

Good luck with that one.

*(ROWAN turns to leave.)*

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC

Well, well, well. The *BRAVE* adventurers held onto him for us.

RINGLEHURT THE ORC

*(Mocking:)*

"Mud in the water! Mud in the water!"

*(GRINGLEGURT hits RINGLEHURT.)*

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC

It's dirt in the water, you fool.

RINGLEHURT THE ORC

Are you an adventurer?

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC

I could've been!

RINGLEHURT THE ORC

Mom wouldn't let you!

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC

I KNOW THAT!

*(Everyone stands staring.)*

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC (CONT'D)  
But that's not important. We're  
going to send this Halfling menace  
back to whatever Hobbit Hole he  
came crawling out of.

*(He brandishes his club.)*  
Ready, Ringlehurt?

RINGLEHURT THE ORC  
Ready, Gringlegurt.

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC  
Hand him over.

*(SARAH has grabbed ROWAN'S arm  
but everyone stands stock  
still. FLIP looks from SARAH  
to ROWAN. He shakes his head.  
SARAH shoves ROWAN towards  
GRINGLEGURT. GRINGLEGURT lifts  
ROWAN off the ground.)*

ROWAN  
Please... Please... Please...

*(RINGLEHURT lifts his club to  
strike a deadly blow. ROWAN  
braces. SARAH looks away. FLIP  
makes a bold decision.)*

FLIP  
HEY! ORC FACE!

*(Everyone looks in confusion.  
FLIP throws his SPATULA into  
RINGLEHURT'S face, he rolls  
forward unsheathing SARAH'S  
SHORTSWORD and swinging it  
right into GRINGLEGURT'S hand,  
cutting it off. GRINGLEGURT  
cries out in pain as ROWAN  
hits the floor.)*

SARAH  
What did you do!?

*(She readies her bow, ROWAN  
scurries away. FLIP poises  
himself for battle. THE ORCS*



*look to our adventurers with  
tears in their eyes.)*

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC  
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?

*(He sobs.)*

RINGLEHURT THE ORC  
What is your issue? That is his  
Bonkeyball hand. We had a match  
with the West Field Dwarves this  
Sunday!

GRINGLEGURT THE ORC  
It hurts, Ringle.

RINGLEHURT THE ORC  
*(Comforting him:)*  
I know, I know. Shhh. Hush,  
Gringlegurt. You're going to be  
okay.

*(Everyone stares.)*

*(Leading GRINGLEGURT away:)*  
You're a real donkey's ass, you  
know that?

*(They EXIT leaving just the  
three adventurers.)*

SARAH  
What in the name just happened?

ROWAN  
*(To FLIP:)*  
You saved me.

FLIP  
I uh...

*(SARAH takes her SHORTSWORD.)*

SARAH  
Give me that.

*(SARAH walks away.)*

ROWAN  
Thank you.

FLIP

Don't worry about it.

*(ROWAN flips up all of the  
lenses on his eyeglasses.)*

ROWAN

I know you know this already but...

*(He extends his hand.)*

I'm Rowan.

FLIP

*(Taking it:)*

Flip.

*(He looks to SARAH.)*

That's Sarah. We're headed to The City right now. I'm trying to find a way back home. To where we work. I'm not so sure how I ended up here in...

ROWAN

The town of Vinuva?

FLIP

The world of Ebo...

ROWAN

Ebo-Racūm Novūm. You're strange for a Human. Well, I've never met a Human. But you're strange for anyone I've ever met. So I suppose that means you're also strange for a human.

FLIP

I suppose.

*(BEAT.)*

ROWAN

I've never been to the city, but I know a route there. Halflings used to have towns built along it when people first started migrating out of the South Fields.

*(Louder:)*

Before the Elves came along.

FLIP

Wait, you know how to get us there faster?

ROWAN

Maybe. What route were you taking?

FLIP

We were following the Northern Star of Junico.

*(ROWAN stifles a laugh.)*

ROWAN

Following the stars. What an Elf thing to do. Stick with me, I'll show you the best route.

FLIP

*(To SARAH:)*

Sarah! Rowan knows a quick route to the City!

SARAH

Have fun.

FLIP

Come on, don't be that way.

ROWAN

*(Mocking, to SARAH:)*

Come on, Elf! You can read our star-signs on the way! The moon is telling me we have a Libra in our presence.

*(He gestures towards FLIP.)*

SARAH

He's a thief. And we're making bad on our promise to hunt him for the Innkeeper. This isn't the way it's supposed to go.

FLIP

Look, Sarah. I think we should trust him. I know him!

*(SARAH is unsure. She stares down ROWAN.)*

SARAH

You have three days to get us past the River of Aequilavium or I'm turning us around and turning you in.

*(She gets close to his face.)*

Understood?

*(BEAT. They take each other in for a moment.)*

*(ROWAN pushes down a lens of his eyeglass.)*

ROWAN

Got it.

FLIP

Alright! Now that that's out of the way we better get started on this whole, "journey to The City" thing, right?

SARAH

I suppose.

FLIP

Yes! Alright, Rowan. Where to?

*(ROWAN thinks for a moment.)*

ROWAN

Let's get out of Vinuva.

FLIP

A great starting point. How do we do that?

SARAH

Yes, Halfling. How do we accomplish that.

ROWAN

Well, uh, I suppose we grab what supplies we can and make for the Outward Road. It will take us out of the Southern Fields a ways, then we're on our own to find the trade route.

FLIP

Then let's do that, come on!

*(FLIP takes off in a direction.)*

ROWAN

Flip, the road lies this way.

FLIP

*(Changing directions:)*

Then that's the way we're going!

*(He sprints off, EXITING, followed by the others. THE AUTHOR and THE ELDER appear.)*

THE AUTHOR

*(Reading:)*

And so the three sought their journey towards the Outward Road. There they would follow it until they grew very weak and tired and needed to rest alongside it. Rowan traded stories of his adventures all across Ebo-Racūm Novūm. Flippicus discussed his strange journey from his home to this foreign land. Sarah mostly stayed quiet.

*(END SCENE.)*

SCENE 4

*Sockeye's. 2 months before  
Graduation.*

*(FLIP ENTERS.)*

JOE  
GODDAMNIT, PHILLIP!

FLIP  
Sorry I'm late. Had to push the  
bike the last three blocks.

JOE  
Get your ass to your station, nave.  
You're going to have to make up for  
those hours you slept through later  
this week. I expect to see you this  
coming Tues-day before the cock  
crows.

*(FLIP puts his hands up in  
confusion.)*

Before noon!

FLIP  
Joe--

JOE  
*(Interrupting:)*  
Ah-ah!

FLIP  
*M'Lord King Joe, You know I can't  
do weekdays before four. I have  
school.*

JOE  
School? You jest! When doth thou  
graduate?

*(Some quick math.)*

FLIP  
'Bout two months.

JOE  
Plans for college?

FLIP  
Not unless you're willing to give

(MORE)

FLIP (CONT'D)

me a raise for flipping burgers.

JOE

See you Tuesday: 4:15.

FLIP

*(Sarcastically:)*

So long, my liege!

*(JOE EXITS. ENTER ROWAN, 17, a small-for-his age dorky individual who wears large glasses and FLIP'S uniform.)*

ROWAN

Flip!

FLIP

Oh, hey.

ROWAN

Sleep through the alarm again?

FLIP

Yeah. I tried to get here but the motorcycle was acting up again.

ROWAN

Flip. You ride a Mongoose Bicycle with a lawn mower engine attached, the sooner you accept this, the sooner we can all get on with our lives.

You know, whenever you show up tardy I'm the one who pays for it.

FLIP

No, yeah, I mean, I understand. Because you're doing two-times the work...

ROWAN

Uh, no. Because then I have to handle Joe's dumbass all by myself.

*(JOE frantically crosses).*

JOE

WE'RE ALL OUT OF DRAGON-SLAM TURKEY AND HAM, MA'AM!

FLIP

Gotcha.

ROWAN

Say, knight? Should we man our towers? Secure our sabers? Perform our duty as the front line for this fine eating establishment?

FLIP

I say'th...

BOTH

Nay.

*(They sit on the counter.)*

FLIP

It's a shame there's no work to do.

ROWAN

We could lend a hand but Joe insists on running the drive thru all by himself.

*(JOE frantically crosses.)*

JOE

Welcome to Sockeye's Joust Thru. Flavors so good they'll knock you off your steed.

ROWAN

When does Mylei come in?

FLIP

Dude, I don't even know when I was supposed to come in.

ROWAN

Fair point. How do you even make it to class?

FLIP

I don't. Not the early ones.

ROWAN

So you just take the absence.

FLIP

Uh... Yeah.



ROWAN

And you're not the slightest bit nervous about how that's going to effect your grades, graduation, college acceptance?

FLIP

Why would I give a damn about any of that?

ROWAN

Wha-- what are you talking about? That's, like, everything! That's what we're supposed to be working towards! With! About!

FLIP

Yeah, I've just got better things to worry about.

ROWAN

You really are an enigma, Flip.

FLIP

Thanks, Rowan. It really is too bad we didn't get to have a class together this year.

ROWAN

Flip, you'd have to harvest the brain cells out of my head before we ended up in class together.

(*BEAT.*)

But I'm glad to be your work friend.

FLIP

Thanks.

(*He lifts his SPATULA.*)

To work friends who have never done a day's work in their lives.

ROWAN

Here, here.

*END SCENE.*

SCENE 5

*Back in Ebo-Racūm Novūm: The Morning.*

*(FLIP, SARAH, and ROWAN ENTER. They have been walking for a long time, ROWAN leads. They reach an intersection.)*

ROWAN

End of the road and onto the route.

SARAH

Don't you mean rut? The stone road turns to gravel and dust.

ROWAN

Well yeah, there hasn't been any upkeep in a couple hundred years. I don't even think they were using it back when I was born.

SARAH

And we're supposed to follow it all the way to the city?

ROWAN

It practically leads us to the door, it may even go all the way inside. I've just never followed it that far North.

FLIP

So you've been up and down it before?

ROWAN

Uh, yeah. There's a quarry just a ways up that we used to always play in when we were just children. Back when there was time to play and aspirations weren't the only things that people lived for. Come now, it's just a ways up.

*(They follow the trail winding up and down to THE QUARRY.)*

SARAH

Ah, there it is.

ROWAN

See? On the other side of the quarry it's practically a straight shot North to The City. I wouldn't be surprised if we were there by--

SARAH

Tomorrow morn'!

ROWAN

Yes, exactly! Which is days faster than your Northern Star of Jupico. We'll be at the River of Aquilavium before the day's noon!

FLIP

Awesome! Then forward we go, right?

ROWAN

That or we go around The Quarry through *The Dark, Forbidding Woods Littered with Talking Spiders and Violent Creatures with Tree Tops so Thick you Couldn't see the Sunlight for Days at a Time.*

(BEAT. Everyone laughs.)

FLIP

Yeah right!

SARAH

We don't hold a wish for death!

(THE AUTHOR begins flipping through unfilled pages in a state of panic.)

THE AUTHOR

This isn't right. They'll reach The City far too soon.

THE ELDER

I'm aware.

THE AUTHOR

What're we going to do?

THE ELDER

Quiet yourself. I am thinking.

(ROWAN slings his provisions over his shoulder.)

ROWAN

Alright, let's move on through.

*(The Author begins ripping future pages up, checking to see if it makes an indent on the characters.)*

THE AUTHOR

No, no, no, no!

THE ELDER

Quiet.

SARAH

We are passing through with much ease.

FLIP

Yeah, this is worlds easier than I thought.

ROWAN

Told you it was fun. Look, we're halfway there.

THE AUTHOR

Damn it! It's all damned! Damn it all right down to the Realm of Shadows in the Net of Damnation it's all for loss!

THE ELDER

*(Angrily:)*

QUIET!

*(THE ELDER rises calmly. He walks over to a desk and opens a drawer, examining the contents.)*

I've hatched a plan. Sit calmly and quiet yourself. Watch and maybe you, too, shall learn.

*(He pulls out the small figurine of A GIANT. He places it down on the table. The sound of magic and mystery envelops the space.)*

*(A loud CRACK/GROAN rings through THE QUARRY.)*

FLIP

What was that?

*(Everyone listens intently. A soft rumble has begun.)*

Guys, what was that?

*(The rumble grows louder.)*

Guys?

*(Suddenly, A GIANT arises, towering over the three, casting a magnificent shadow.)*

THE GIANT

I SMELL ADVENTURERS.

FLIP

It's just sweat and fear!

*(SARAH grabs FLIP and begins backing away.)*

SARAH

We were actually just leaving...

ROWAN

GIANT, WE DEMAND PASSAGE THROUGH THIS QUARRY.

THE GIANT

WHO DEMANDS PASSAGE?

ROWAN

I, Rowan of the Halflings. Followed by Sarah of the Elves and Flippicus the Fabled.

*(BEAT.)*

THE GIANT

**The** Flippicus?

ROWAN

The very same.

THE GIANT

How excited to be known as The Giant who led Flippicus through her quarry...

FLIP

Yes!

THE GIANT

And crushed him under her rocks!

FLIP

No!

*(Another rumbling sends rocks falling all around.)*

SARAH

It's bringing down the quarry.

ROWAN

***SHE'S*** bringing down the Quarry. You can tell because of how high pitched her voice is compared to other, male giants.

*(A low bellow cries out across the land.)*

FLIP

Run for it!

ROWAN

Right!

*(SARAH and FLIP begin running towards the entrance.)*

This way!

*(ROWAN goes for the exit on the other side.)*

*(FLIP and SARAH dodge a swipe from THE GIANT, making it safely out of THE QUARRY. The rocks begin falling harder, blocking the exit completely.)*

Oh shit.

*(ROWAN turns around and begins sprinting towards SARAH and FLIP, rocks crashing down all around him. The giant laughs.)*

THE GIANT

Run little man, run! Look how fast his little legs can take him!  
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT!

ROWAN

YES. I. CAN.

*(He sprints ahead even faster, almost to safety. Suddenly THE GIANT'S hand swings down and knocks ROWAN into the wall, incapacitating him on the ground. THE GIANT cackles.)*

SARAH

Rowan!

*(Without a moments thought SARAH races into the crumbling QUARRY after ROWAN, the entrance sealing up behind.)*

FLIP

No!

THE GIANT

Oh Fabled Flippicus. You must be crushed! Not as much so as your friends but still, crushed.

*(THE GIANT cackles.)*

FLIP

SHUT UP! You Jolly Green Asshole!

*(FLIP picks up a rock from the rubble and heaves it in the direction of THE GIANT. A **CLONK!** is heard.)*

THE GIANT

Ow, my head...

*(The whistle of something very large falling. THE GIANT lands with a crash and the entire stage is swept up in dust and obliteration as the entire QUARRY is crushed by the giant sending rocks and debris flying everywhere. FLIP stands up, coughing.)*

FLIP

Huh. Rock beats giant...

THE AUTHOR

We have much more paper to fill. We must stay sharp.

THE ELDER

Sharper than scissors, friend. We will not be so careless again.

*(THE ELDER stands, picks up THE GIANT'S FIGURINE, and lets it crumble in his hand, sand running through the bottom, blowing away into nothingness. THE AUTHOR retakes his seat, more paper in hand.)*

*(THE AUTHOR begins typing again as THE ELDER stares in deep thought.)*

*(FLIP looks up to find a very dazed and dirty ROWAN laying next to SARAH.)*

ROWAN

You... You saved my life.

FLIP

She does that.

SARAH

Are you alright?

ROWAN

Yeah.

*(He realizes how close they are to each other and inches away. He stares in awe.)*

Thank you.

*(SARAH stands, brushing herself off.)*

FLIP

GUYS I SLAYED A GIANT!

*(FLIP wanders away a tad to admire his giant slaying capabilities.)*

SARAH

I suppose we're not using the

(MORE)



SARAH (CONT'D)

Quarry?

*(They look to the impassible  
wall of Death.)*

ROWAN

Not anymore we're not. We've no  
chance scaling up to her knee cap.

FLIP

Well how are we supposed to get  
around that thing?

*(Everyone looks towards THE  
DARK, FORBIDDING WOODS  
LITTERED WITH TALKING SPIDERS  
AND VIOLENT CREATURES WITH  
TREE TOPS SO THICK YOU  
COULDN'T SEE THE SUNLIGHT FOR  
DAYS AT A TIME.)*

Of course.

*END SCENE.*

SCENE 6

THE DARK, FORBIDDING WOODS  
LITTERED WITH TALKING SPIDERS  
AND VIOLENT CREATURES WITH  
TREE TOPS SO THICK YOU  
COULDN'T SEE THE SUNLIGHT FOR  
DAYS AT A TIME.

*(Something scurries across.  
The woods shift and  
threateningly sway. FLIP,  
SARAH, and ROWAN ENTER.)*

ROWAN

*(Scared:)*

Just a bit farther...

FLIP

Yeah, that's what you said  
two-and-a-half hours ago. I can't  
see jack-squat.

SARAH

It's much too dark to see Jack  
stand, either.

*(BEAT.)*

SOMETHING WET AND CLAMY JUST TRIED  
TO GRAB MY HAND!

*(ROWAN wipes the sweat off his  
hand.)*

ROWAN

It was probably nothing...

*(FLIP sits in exhaustion.)*

FLIP

It's hopeless.

SARAH

Come now, we must keep moving.

ROWAN

Sarah, I hate to say it... But Flip  
is right, we're royally screwed.  
Now all we have to do is wait for a  
giant spider to come along and spin  
us into its web.

SARAH

If you all would like to sit here  
and await fate that is fine, but  
you will find me at the end of this  
forest back on my path to The City.  
I'll send you my regards.

*(She begins to take off, a  
rustle freezes her in place.)*

FLIP

Woah, did you hear...

ROWAN

Shhh.

*(He arms himself for a fight.)*

SARAH

It came from this way.

*(She raises her bow.)*

*(FLIP begins backing away from  
the source of the noise  
slowly.)*

FLIP

You guys have a good time that. Let  
me know when the coast is clear.

*(He bumps into an ARMED  
WOODLAND.)*

'Scuse me.

*(He turns away from the  
WOODLAND and freezes.)*

Oh no.

*(WOODLANDS emerge from the  
trees with a war cry.)*

AVĒ FEMINA

Drop your weapons!

SARAH

Nay.

*(ROWAN positions himself in  
front of SARAH.)*

AVĒ FEMINA

Drop your weapons... NOW.

*(The WOODLANDS brandish their weapons with a step closer.)*

*(SARAH, FLIP, and ROWAN drop their weapons.)*

*(AVĒ FEMINA, a young woman and chief WOODLAND takes a step forward. She is strong enough to command the WOODLAND military.)*

AVĒ FEMINA (CONT'D)

You are trespassing on Woodland Ground. Submit for judgment.

ROWAN

Alright, alright.

*(He puts his hands up.)*

You've got us.

*(A WOODLAND steps forward to bind his hands. In an instant ROWAN socks the WOODLAND across the face.)*

Run, Sarah!

*(The WOODLAND retorts with a swift punch in ROWAN'S gut, he's then tossed to the ground. The others are bound.)*

FLIP

*(Being separated:)*

Sarah, do something!

SARAH

*(To AVĒ:)*

Please, we were just seeking passage to The City.

*(AVĒ leans down to SARAH.)*

AVĒ FEMINA

Your travels have led you astray from the path to The City. First you will seek judgement from our leader. Then we may bid you passage.

*(She pushes SARAH'S hair  
behind her ear, noticing their  
point.)*

AVĒ FEMINA

An Elf?

*(BEAT.)*

I wouldn't bet on any safe travels.

*(With a shove she leads her  
off stage. All EXIT, led by  
the WOODLANDS.)*

*END SCENE.*

SCENE 7

## THE LAND OF THE WOODLANDS

*(THE LAND OF THE WOODLANDS is built, a thriving community on the outskirts of THE FORREST, in the shadow of THE MORTIFERUS MOUNTAINS of the GOBLINS. FLIP, SARAH, and ROWAN are led on, joined by SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR, all still bound.)*

WOODLAND GUARD

Halt.

*(All stop.)*

Here you will await your fate.

*(The three are left alone with SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR.)*

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR

What have they taken you in for?

*(BEAT. No one responds.)*

Oh... Strong silent type. I see.  
The name's Schmeldric. Schmeldric  
of the Woodlands. If you're wise  
you won't trust these peoples, they  
take everything for themselves,  
selfish peoples.

FLIP

What did you do?

SARAH

Flip.

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR

Quiet, girly.

ROWAN

Quiet, toothless.

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR

*(To FLIP:)*

They caught me thieving. That's  
what the peoples do when they take  
everything for themselves. They

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR (CONT'D)  
 make you out to be a criminal when  
 you try to take a something for  
 yourselves. Corrupt peoples.

ROWAN  
 We were trespassing in *The Dark,*  
*Forbidding Woods Littered with*  
*Talking Spiders and Violent*  
*Creatures with Tree Tops so Thick*  
*you Couldn't see the Sunlight for*  
*Days at a Time.*

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR  
 Ah, yes. That'll do it when they  
 catch outsiders snooping around.  
 You're not *Adventurers* are ya?

FLIP  
 Ye--

*(An elbow to his gut from*  
*SARAH.)*

SARAH  
 No. Travelers.

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR  
 Good. Nobody likes an adventurer.

SARAH  
 Say-eth a common thief.

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR  
 Ah, a thief, maybe. But not so  
 common after alls.

*(AVE FEMINA ENTERS.)*

AVE FEMINA  
 Quiet all of you. Await the arrival  
 of our leader.

FLIP  
 We've been awaiting.

AVE FEMINA  
 Elf, control your Human.

*(AVE gives a cocky smile to*  
*SARAH. Two GUARDS ENTER and*  
*give a nod to AVE FEMINA.)*

## AVE\_FEMINA

All kneel for the arrival of our leader. Quinntalia, Queen of the Woodlands.

*(All except for FLIP kneel as QUINNNTALIA, QUEEN OF THE WOODLANDS ENTERS. FLIP stands, mouth agape, struck to the core as the most beautiful girl he's ever seen stands before him.)*

## WOODLAND GUARD

Kneel before the queen!

*(A swift kick to the back of the knee sends FLIP down with a small cry of pain.)*

## QUINNNTALIA

I will now pass judgment on my subjects. Avē Femina, Head of the Guard, please state the infraction of each individual.

## AVĒ FEMINA

Yes, Lovely Queen.  
Schmeldric of the Woodlands, reigning from the house of Proditor, is hereby charged with the attempted theft of the Blade of Durendal.

## QUINNNTALIA

Schmeldric Proditor of the Woodlands. Present your reasoning, beg your mercy.

## SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR

The Blade of Durendal belongs to whomever is strong enough to wield it. Holding it for King Charlemagne of Western Coles is not right!

## QUINNNTALIA

My judgment on the procurement of the Blade of Durendal is not up for discussion. You are banished from the Land of the Woodlands as a result of your crimes. You are no longer Schmeldric of the Woodlands,

(MORE)



QUINNNTALIA (CONT'D)

reigning from the house of  
Proditor. You are now Schmeldric  
Proditor the Damned and you will be  
addressed as such. Be gone.

*(THE GUARDS take up SCHMELDRIC  
PRODITOR.)*

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR  
Stop! Stop! You will regret this, I  
promise you! You're unjust peoples!  
Ruthless peoples! Unjust and  
unfair! He will bring the downfall  
of our land!

*(He and THE GUARDS EXIT.)*

AVĒ FEMINA  
Next, O'Lovely Queen:  
The following three are charged  
with trespassing within our wood,  
upon our ground. They entered from  
the Eastern Border, along the path  
leading from the South Field.

FLIP  
We were just trying to get to The  
City!

WOODLAND GUARD  
QUIET!

*(BEAT.)*

*(QUINNNTALIA sizes them up.  
Approaches them.)*

QUINNNTALIA  
Outsiders, yes?

AVĒ FEMINA  
Yes.

QUINNNTALIA  
Friendly?

AVĒ FEMINA  
It would not appear so.

QUINNNTALIA  
I see.

*(She stops and looks FLIP up*

*and down. Moment of intrigue.)*

QUINNNTALIA (CONT'D)

And what do you think of them, Avē?

*(BEAT.)*

AVĒ FEMINA

I like them.

*(Surprise to the three.)*

QUINNNTALIA

As do I. Clean them up, they will enjoy supper alongside me and the Guard tonight. They can tell us of their exciting passage here from the South Field.

*(The three are cut from their binds.)*

I'm especially interested in this one.

*(She eyes FLIP.)*

'Til tonight.

AVĒ FEMINA

All rise for the dismissal of our Queen.

*(All rise.)*

QUINNNTALIA

Thank you, love.

*(AVĒ smiles. QUINNNTALIA EXITS.)*

AVĒ FEMINA

Boys, follow the Guards. They'll show you quarters to clean yourselves in. Elf?

SARAH

Sarah.

AVĒ FEMINA

*(Sly:)*

Of course. Sarah, you're with me.

*(SARAH and AVĒ FEMINA EXIT.)*

ROWAN

Can we afford to stay for dinner?  
Sarah would want to get a move  
on...

*(FLIP looks to where  
QUINN TALIA once stood.)*

FLIP

We should stay. At least for a  
little while.

ROWAN

Why?

*(FLIP snaps out of his trance.  
He thinks quickly.)*

FLIP

Free meal.

*BLACKOUT.*

*END SCENE.*

SCENE 8

*The Dinner Table*

*(That evening. All sit around the table, unsure what to say. They eat in silence, nervous of the copious amounts of WOODLAND GUARDS.)*

*(After a long silence:)*

AVĒ FEMINA

The Queen is not amused. Someone will speak or I will make them.

SARAH

I am Sarah. We--

QUĪNNTALIA

Mm. Sarah *of...*?

SARAH

Sarah

*(BEAT.)*

Of a tribe of Southern Elves. The Kovenant.

*(Hushed whispers. An Elf?)*

QUĪNNTALIA

SILENCE.

*(All quiet.)*

And what would bring an Elf to our side of Ebo-Racūm Novūm?

SARAH

I was... Uhm... We are...

AVĒ FEMINA

She's clearly nervous standing in the beauty of our Queen. She falters.

*(All eyes turn to AVĒ who takes a sip of her wine.)*

QUĪNNTALIA

Quiet, Ave. You know not what you speak of.

ROWAN

I am Rowan of the Halflings, I have no origin, I come from no land. I am bound to cross Ebo-Racūm Novūm until I have soaked up everything this land has to offer. I am a cunning warrior and quick as the drawn arrow of a bow. I will not rest until there is nothing in this world left to challenge me.

QUĪNNTALIA

Enough. You've made your point, Halfling. You have no point. No kingdom to command. No loyalty to pledge. You **must** be an adventurer, for there is nothing else you could be.

*(All chortle in response.)*

ROWAN

That's not...

SARAH

You can't speak to him that way.

AVĒ FEMINA

*(Slamming her fist.)*

How dare you disrespect the Queen.

QUĪNNTALIA

Avē Femina. That's enough. Elves are the kind who must have manners taught to them before they can be expected to implement them. She's just a hedonistic Elf and a lowly adventurer, too.

SARAH

I am not!

FLIP

What's the problem with being an adventurer?

QUĪNNTALIA

You finally decide to speak up, Human.

*(FLIP stands.)*

FLIP

I am Flip. Of the Humans.

*(BEAT.)*

Of the Republic of California.

QUINNNTALIA

An adventurer is a trouble-maker.  
The unwanted. The unable to do any  
good in their own domain, thus they  
set off across our land to explore  
what problems they can cause. The  
greatest adventurers of this world  
are not heirs of legend nor seekers  
of fortune. They are no one. They  
die in search of a potential they  
never had.

FLIP

I do not come from the world of  
Ebo-Racūm Novūm. Where I'm from  
people spend their whole lives  
wishing to be adventurers. Wishing  
to be chosen for something greater.  
I'm proud to be called an  
adventurer. And I'm proud to have  
these people in my  
Adventure...Gang.

*(He locks eyes with AVE.)*

I apologize for disrespecting the  
Queen. Thank you for having us over  
for supper.

*(A GUARD drops his spear.)*

WOODLAND GUARD

Flippicus...

*(He kneels. Others follow.)*

AVE FEMINA

My queen, it is he.

QUINNNTALIA

Yes, it is. The fabled Flippicus.  
You've blessed us with appearance  
in our domain.

*(Touching, examining FLIP:)*

Such power... Such strength...

*(She unsheathes his SPATULA,  
holding it up to the light.)*  
Such strange weaponry.

*(She cups his face.)*  
I never thought I'd see you with my  
own two eyes. And now...

*(She runs her hands down his  
chest.)*  
I get to touch you with my own two  
hands.

FLIP  
Do I get to touch you with mine?

SARAH  
Flip!

*(QUINN̄TALIA puts her hand  
through his hair.)*

QUINN̄TALIA  
*(To AV̄E, though looking at  
FLIP:)*  
He's daring. I admire that.

*(To FLIP:)*  
Flippicus the Fabled may return my  
touch.

*(As a secret:)*  
And I very well wish he takes  
advantage of this privilege.

*(She steps away leaving FLIP  
with her scent, enamoured.)*  
Supper is adjourned. I must return  
for the evening. I have many things  
to contemplate regarding our new  
guests. Please escort them to their  
quarters.

AV̄E FEMINA  
I shall accompany the Queen to her  
Chamber.

QUINN̄TALIA  
No. You shall escort the Elf. Elves  
are sly and cunning and are yet to  
be trusted in our domain.  
Especially one as strong as she

(MORE)

QUINNNTALIA (CONT'D)

appears to be.

SARAH

I choose to acknowledge that as a  
compliment.

*(AVE FEMINA grabs her by the  
arm.)*

AVE FEMINA

Come.

*(She escorts her off.)*

ROWAN

*(To the GUARDS:)*

I don't need a baby-sitter, but  
thanks.

*(He begins to EXIT but is  
stopped by the GUARDS.)*

Fine. I guess we're taking the  
brigade with us. Flip?

*(FLIP is still eyeing  
QUINNNTALIA.)*

FLIP

Huh, yeah. Quinnntalia?

QUINNNTALIA

Yes, Flippicus?

FLIP

Thanks for everything.

QUINNNTALIA

You have no reason to thank me...

*(BEAT.)*

Yet.

*(And with that, she EXITS. The  
GUARDS usher FLIP away.)*

END SCENE.



SCENE 9*The ELDER'S STUDY*

THE AUTHOR

*(Reading:)*

Time passes...

THE ELDER

As it does.

THE AUTHOR

Yes, as it does.

*(Reading:)*

And the three found themselves staying much longer than for one supper. In fact, they stayed for many suppers, all with Queen Quinntalia and her Royal Guard.

*(To THE ELDER:)*

Why are they spending so much time with The Woodlands? Shouldn't they be getting on to The City?

THE ELDER

Patience. It will be of great importance, you will see. Sometimes the quest you embark upon is not always the quest you finish. Who's to say they don't spend the rest of their days in the Land of the Woodlands?

*(THE AUTHOR looks through the empty pages yet to be filled.)*

THE AUTHOR

They better not...

THE ELDER

You will soon see: there is a reason for all. Is getting from A to B the most important goal in the world?

THE AUTHOR

I suppose not.

THE ELDER

Good. Because it's *how* you get from

(MORE)

THE ELDER (CONT'D)

point A to point B that is  
important. And whom you meet along  
the way.

*(FLIP AND ROWAN'S QUARTERS are  
built below. FLIP and ROWAN,  
each changed into clean,  
casual garb, sit. FLIP begins  
putting on his boots.)*

ROWAN  
You're off again?

FLIP  
Yes, I told Sarah I'd help her with  
something.

ROWAN  
Ah. How is she?

FLIP  
Who?

ROWAN  
Sarah!

FLIP  
Oh, uh, good. I think. I don't  
know, Rowan. You see her everyday.

ROWAN  
Yeah, but we don't, like, talk  
much. Not like you guys do.

FLIP  
Sarah and I don't talk.

ROWAN  
You don't?

FLIP  
I mean, we do, but not any  
different than you guys do.

ROWAN  
I sometimes worry I speak to Sarah  
too much.

FLIP  
Why?

ROWAN  
I'm not sure.

FLIP  
Well, you're fine.

ROWAN  
Yeah, yeah. You're probably right.  
But I should probably ease how much  
I speak with her, just to be on the  
safe side.

(*BEAT.*)  
Or maybe it's better to talk with  
her more.

FLIP  
Yeah. Sure.

ROWAN  
Right.

(*BEAT.*)  
So you're seeing her tonight?

FLIP  
Yes, I told you. She asked me to  
help her with some... Elf... Shit.

ROWAN  
(*Nodding:*)  
Ah, yes, right. Elf Shit. That's  
important... Shit.

(*BEAT.*)  
Do you remember that time she saved  
me from The Giant in the Quarry?

FLIP  
Yeah?

ROWAN  
I think that's when it all started.

FLIP  
What all started?

ROWAN  
Me talking to her too much.

FLIP  
Oh.

ROWAN  
Yeah. Do you remember what it

(MORE)

ROWAN (CONT'D)

looked like.

*(He begins acting it out.)*

I was all like, "Oh my God, no!"  
And she was all like, "Oh my God, I  
got this!" And then pow, pow, she  
killed The Giant and saved my life.

FLIP

**I** killed The Giant!

ROWAN

Oh, right, right. Of course.

*(He begins showering him with  
praise, teasingly:)*

Oh, Flippicus. Oh Flippicus the  
Brave and Strong and Mighty and  
Chiseled...

*(FLIP playfully shoves him  
back.)*

FLIP

*(Laughing:)*

Alright! Enough! Don't you have  
anything better to do?

ROWAN

Oh, uh, no. I was actually thinking  
of asking if Sarah wanted to go for  
a walk or something but she's  
got...

FLIP

Elf Shit?

ROWAN

Yeah, Elf Shit.

FLIP

Well, uh, maybe if we finish up  
fast enough it won't be too late.

ROWAN

Yeah, maybe.

*(Realizes:)*

Oh damn! How am I supposed to ask  
her on a walk if I'm supposed to  
talk to her less?

(Realizes:)

ROWAN (CONT'D)  
I'll write her a note.

(Suddenly, there's a pounding  
on the door. Both the boys  
look in confusion.)

FLIP

(Clearing throat, putting on  
his Flippicus persona:)  
Ah, who goes there?

SARAH

I?

FLIP

Do not enter the home of Flippicus  
the Fabled... For he is in the  
middle of putting on his garb--

SARAH

(Barging in:)  
It's time to go.

FLIP

Woah, okay. You can't just walk in  
unannounced. What is this, *Friends*?

(ROWAN looks up in confusion.  
SARAH chooses to ignore.)

SARAH

Flip, pack your things. It's time  
to go. Hello, Rowan.

ROWAN

Hi, Sarah. Oh, I mean...

**Oh, hey.**

FLIP

"Go?" What do you mean, "go?" We  
just got here!

ROWAN

Flip, maybe Sarah's right. We've  
been here for two weeks. It's kind  
of time to go.

FLIP

Go where?

SARAH AND ROWAN  
THE CITY!

SARAH

That's where we set off to travel to.

FLIP

And what if I don't want to go to The City just yet?

SARAH

We're getting there to get you home.

FLIP

No, I'm getting there to go home. I'm not so sure why you're going there.

ROWAN

Well, I'd like to get there, too!

FLIP

You're just going so you don't get turned in for swindling the Orcs.

ROWAN

What? That's lifetimes ago. I'm a changed man. Halfling. Half-man-ling.

*(They stare him down.)*

Okay, fine. I was! But now I've got my mind set on going. And when my mind is set on something, I'll make damn sure it happens.

FLIP

You sound like Sarah.

SARAH

Don't compare me to a Halfling!

ROWAN

Don't compare me to an Elf!

FLIP

Sorry...

SARAH

Flip. We've had our fun here. It's time to go, don't you think?

FLIP

NO. You two can do whatever you want. I'm staying right here with the Woodlands. You can call me Flippicus the Fabled Human who lives with the Woodlands.

ROWAN

We're going to call you Flippicus the Idiot.

*(FLIP shoves ROWAN.)*

Easy, Flip.

FLIP

No, I'm not going to chill!

*(BEAT.)*

I've got somewhere to be.

*(FLIP attempts to EXIT.)*

SARAH

Where are you going?

FLIP

To the land of Nunya!

ROWAN

The land of Nunya?

FLIP

Nunya damn business!

*(FLIP EXITS, slamming the door.)*

ROWAN

Shouldn't you go with him?

SARAH

Why would I do that?

ROWAN

Because he was helping you out tonight. With the Elf Shit. With the...

*(He realizes.)*

SARAH

That was a lie.

ROWAN

That was a lie, wasn't it?

SARAH  
I'm sorry, little one.

ROWAN  
He'll come around, won't he? We  
can't just /leave him.

SARAH  
I'm leaving.

ROWAN  
What?

SARAH  
*(Realizing:)*  
What? No, no, not like that. I'll  
be back. I just have to let off  
some steam.

ROWAN  
You could talk to me about it if  
you wanted.

*(He attempts to touch her.)*

SARAH  
It's not for your matter.

*(She brushes him off.)*  
Await Flip's return. Tell him we're  
leaving in the 'morrow.

ROWAN  
Sarah, stay.

SARAH  
Busy yourself. I'll see you when we  
depart.

*(SARAH EXITS, leaving ROWAN  
alone.)*

*(ROWAN disappears as the edge  
of the Mortiferus Mountains is  
revealed.)*

*(FLIP ENTERS.)*

FLIP  
Hello? I know you're out here.

*(He searches around.)*



Blending in with the trees or the  
leaves or something.

*(He turns at the sound of a  
whistle. He smiles.)*

Come on out already. We can't play  
this game every time.

*(QUINNNTALIA appears behind him  
and surprises him, wrapping  
her arms around him.)*

QUINNNTALIA

I've got you!

FLIP

So you do!

QUINNNTALIA

Did you see me coming?

FLIP

No, you know that. I never see you  
when you're hidden in the brush.

QUINNNTALIA

That's because I'm a Woodland. We  
don't stick out like you humans.

FLIP

You don't. You've got a lot going  
for you being a Woodland and all.  
Much better than being a Human.

QUINNNTALIA

Yes, Humans are the worst. You're a  
handsome one though.

*(BEAT.)*

As far as Humans go.

*(She giggles. FLIP holds her.)*

Your hands are freezing! You're  
always so cold.

*(He pulls back.)*

FLIP

Oh, I'm sorry.

QUINNNTALIA

It's alright. I don't mind.

*(She pulls him back.)*

FLIP

Talia, I have something to tell you.

QUĪNNTALIA

Yes?

FLIP

Sarah and Rowan want us to leave The Land of the Woodlands. They want us to continue our journey onwards towards The City.

QUĪNNTALIA

*(Retreating:)*

Oh.

FLIP

But I don't want to leave. I'd like to stay here. With you. I'd never go home if I didn't have to. We could stay together. Or you could go to The City with me and I could take you home, out of Ebo-Racūm and--

*(QUĪNNTALIA interrupts him with a KISS.)*

*(MEANWHILE, in the WOODS, SARAH has appeared hacking away with her SHORTSWORD angrily.)*

SARAH

*(Muttering, to herself:)*

Idiot. **THE Flippicus**... He doesn't even have a sword. Or common sense.

*(AVĒ FEMINA appears.)*

AVĒ FEMINA

It would appear the tree did you wrong.

*(SARAH jumps in surprise.)*

SARAH

Oh, I...

AVE FEMINA

It's alright. I do the same when I'm angry. Come here. The trees are whom I speak to when I'm ignored. Angry. The trees hold secrets. That's the blessing of being a Woodland, speaking to the Earth. I lay grievances in the soil, my qualms rest in pods and bloom in the spring. You must understand how that goes, being an Elf and all.

SARAH

I suppose.

AVE FEMINA

What I don't understand is this speaking to spirits and the stars. Now that's just ridiculous.

*(They both laugh.)*

SARAH

Says the one who hides her secrets in rose petals!

AVE FEMINA

Qualms go in flowers. Secrets go in the trees. Don't you listen?

SARAH

Sometimes.

*(She thinks.)*

Why are you telling me this? I thought you hated me.

AVE FEMINA

Hate is a strong word. I didn't trust you. I still don't.

SARAH

Why don't you trust me?

AVE FEMINA

You remind me of someone... I look at you and see myself. Younger and naive.

SARAH

You compare yourself to an Elf?

AVE FEMINA

Never. But I compare myself to you.  
I can't help but see a reflection  
of myself in your eyes.

*(Turning away:)*

I sometimes believe there is no one  
in the world more ignored than I.

SARAH

Is this because I mistook the  
flowers for trees?

AVE FEMINA

No, it's not that. In life... I'm a  
woman commanding a legion of men.  
It can be... Alienating. I care for  
one person in this world but at  
times I feel my admiration is  
misguided.

SARAH

I recognize that feeling. Even in  
my tribe in the South-West I was  
alone. That's why I fled.

AVE FEMINA

You're running away?

SARAH

Yes.

*(BEAT.)*

AVE FEMINA

Coward.

SARAH

What?

AVE FEMINA

You heard me! You're a coward,  
running away from home.

SARAH

You don't know what it was like in  
my tribe! There were none like me.

AVE FEMINA

And there are none like me among  
the Woodlands and yet I do not run.

SARAH

And that makes you better than me?

AVĒ FEMINA

Yes. It does.

*(SARAH brandishes her  
SHORTSWORD. AVE FEMINA arms  
herself. They begin to spar.)*

SARAH

If my life were in your perspective  
you would have done the same!

AVĒ FEMINA

If your life were in my perspective  
I would have built one I did not  
feel the need to run from.

SARAH

Sometimes situations are beyond  
repair.

AVĒ FEMINA

And sometimes people are more  
willing to escape than to resurrect  
what once was lost.

SARAH

And if it was never there to be  
begin with? My tribe hated me for  
who I was. Am.

AVĒ FEMINA

My people have no idea who I am. If  
they did they would cast me out.

*(They lock their swords  
together, each held close.)*

SARAH

Running away means I'm brave enough  
to do *something*. At least I haven't  
sat by and hoped for things to  
become better.

AVĒ FEMINA

So you're saying I need to do  
something?

SARAH

Yes.

(BEAT.)

AVE FEMINA  
Regardless of the consequences?

SARAH  
If it seems the right thing in the  
moment, then yes.

AVE FEMINA  
Yes?

SARAH  
Yes. Do it.

AVE FEMINA  
Are you positive?

(BEAT. SARAH nods.)

SARAH  
Please.

(AVE FEMINA kisses SARAH, both  
of them dropping their swords  
and holding each other for a  
moment.)

QUINN TALIA  
I'd like to show you something. Is  
that alright?

FLIP  
Of course.

(She takes his hand.)

QUINN TALIA  
Come with me.

(They EXIT together.)

(SARAH pushes away from AVE.)

SARAH  
No, that's not...

AVE FEMINA  
Of course.

SARAH  
How long have you...

AVĒ FEMINA

Always.

SARAH

Oh. I understand.

AVĒ FEMINA

Yes.

SARAH

It was nice.

AVĒ FEMINA

Yes. It was.

SARAH

I've never...

AVĒ FEMINA

Me neither.

SARAH

I couldn't tell.

(BEAT.)

For whom do you love?

AVĒ FEMINA

No one.

SARAH

That's not true. You kiss me as if  
I was someone else.

AVĒ FEMINA

You said you've never kissed  
anyone.

SARAH

You don't need to have loved to  
know when someone has misplaced  
their affections onto you.

(BEAT. Playfully:)

The trees told me.

AVĒ FEMINA

I serve her because I love her. I  
am her Captain of the Guard and  
Lady in Waiting. I would be amiss  
in her union with King Charlemagne.  
When it comes to fruition, I will  
have lost my chance.

SARAH

Her union?

AVE FEMINA

Yes. She is engaged to wed King Charlemagne of Western Coles. The union of West Coles and the Land of the Woodlands will be the only thing strong enough to hold off the imposing attack of the Goblins who herald from the Mortiferus Mountains. They wed in three days time.

*(SARAH is unsure what to do with this information.)*

SARAH

I'm sorry.

AVE FEMINA

It's alright. I've made peace with it. I can control whom I love. I cannot, however, control who I find myself in attraction with.

SARAH

Neither can I. But I can show restraint.

*(She begins to leave.)*

AVE FEMINA

Why? Why restrain yourself?

SARAH

I'm better than that.

AVE FEMINA

Do you not hear the music of the wind in the woods. It hides us. No one needs know what happened here.

SARAH

And no one will know. But nothing more can happen.

*(She turns to leave.)*

AVE FEMINA

I was not thinking of Queen Quinntalia when I kissed you. I thought only of Sarah. The

(MORE)



AVE FEMINA (CONT'D)

mysterious trespasser from the  
Woods.

SARAH

Avē?

AVE FEMINA

Yes?

SARAH

I will need to leave tomorrow.

AVĒ FEMINA

Then tonight is the only chance I  
will ever have to love someone like  
you.

*(SARAH goes towards AVĒ  
FEMINA, kisses her and ushers  
her into the brush where they  
disappear together.)*

*(FLIP and QUĪNN TALIA ENTER the  
ROYAL HALL OF THE WOODLANDS.)*

QUĪNN TALIA

Here.

FLIP

What is this?

*(She opens a case revealing  
the BLADE OF DURENDAL.)*

QUĪNN TALIA

This is the Blade of Durendal. It  
is the most powerful weapon upon  
our land. It is reserved for the  
most sacred hero to hold it. There  
is only one powerful enough to  
wield it.

*(FLIP is entranced by power.)*

It is fabled when they are united,  
there will be no might great enough  
to stop them.

FLIP

A sort of a Sword in the Stone  
thing going on, huh?

*(She stares at him blankly.)*

FLIP (CONT'D)

Carry on.

QUINNNTALIA

Few know where it is kept and less know of the power it wields. It is the strongest thing in the Woodland's possession. I'm entrusting you with this knowledge. It is very important to me you swear this to secrecy.

FLIP

I sw--

QUINNNTALIA

No! You must swear upon your heart and mine.

*(Her hand goes to his chest.)*

Quick, place your hand upon my heart.

FLIP

If you insist.

*(His hand goes on her chest.)*

QUINNNTALIA

Now swear.

FLIP

I swear.

*(They kiss.)*

FLIP (CONT'D)

Talia, I never want to leave you.

QUINNNTALIA

I know. Our time together has been short but invaluable. I will never forget it.

FLIP

It doesn't have to end.

QUINNNTALIA

But it does soon. You and I both know your colleagues are anxious to move on. You are not destined to reside here in the Land of the Woodlands.

FLIP

But that's not true! I could stay here if you'd let me! I already told my friends I had no plans on leaving. They can go on without me.

QUINNNTALIA

If you wish to stay I could make it so. It is only a pity, for I had assumed tonight would be your last night and had thus made arrangements to give you my most valuable gifts.

FLIP

I know, I know, the knowledge of the Blade of Durendal-- Hold on. Did you say *gifts*. *Plural*?

QUINNNTALIA

Yes. I had also made accommodations to consummate our relationship

*(FLIP'S eyes widen.)*

FLIP

Wait, what?

QUINNNTALIA

Yes, my quarters are just down the hall. I had assumed that you could be the one with whom I exchange virginities.

FLIP

Wha-- Well-- I mean I would love to except that I'm not a...  
Yes please, I would like that very much.

QUINNNTALIA

However if you're going to be staying within the Land for an extended period perhaps the time is not upon us.

FLIP

You know, Sarah and Rowan really don't have any business getting to The City alone. I better join them back on the quest tomorrow just, you know, 'cause it's the admirable

(MORE)

FLIP (CONT'D)

thing to do.

QUINNNTALIA

Then tonight is your last night?

FLIP

Mmhmm.

QUINNNTALIA

How valiant.

FLIP

The most valiantest.

*(QUINNNTALIA smiles. FLIP picks her up and carries her off, both of them laughing all the way.)*

*END SCENE.*

SCENE 10

*The next morning.*

FLIP

Thank you.

AVĒ FEMINA

Not a problem.

SARAH

I'd never done that before.

QUĪNNTALIA

I could tell.

(BEAT.)

I hadn't either.

FLIP

Thanks.

QUĪNNTALIA

You don't have to thank me!

SARAH

It just feels like something you  
should say thank you for!

AVĒ FEMINA

Well, don't. That's odd.

FLIP

Oh. Sorry.

AVĒ FEMINA

It's okay...

QUĪNNTALIA

It's cute.

SARAH

Good God, the sun is so high, we've  
slept half the day away.

AVĒ FEMINA

I suppose the Guard will be  
wondering where I've been.

SARAH

Tell them you were hunting?

AVĒ FEMINA

I'll tell them I was swooning young

(MORE)

AVE FEMINA (CONT'D)

women in the forrest.

FLIP

I should probably find Sarah and Rowan. They'll wonder where I am.

QUINNNTALIA

Tell them you were seduced.

FLIP

I was just going to tell them I went for a walk. That works, too. You good?

QUINNNTALIA

Am I good?

FLIP

Yes, "good." Are you alright? Are you well?

AVE FEMINA

Yes. I'm "good." And you are?

SARAH

I'm good, too.

*(AVE takes SARAH'S hand.)*

AVE FEMINA

Good.

*(A horn bellows.)*

ALL

Who could that be?

*(CHARLEMAGNE ENTERS.)*

CHARLEMAGNE

Hello, Woodlands! It is I, King Charlemagne of Western Coles. I have come for the Blade of Durendal and to wed the hand of Queen Quinntalia of the Woodlands. And may I say...

*(He takes a deep breath.)*

It's a beautiful day to rule a new kingdom.

END SCENE.

SCENE 11

THE DINING ROOM.

(QUINN TALIA sits at the head of the table with FLIP and CHARLEMAGNE on either side of her. FLIP sits next to SARAH, who sits across from AVĒ FEMINA, ROWAN sits at the end of the table across from OTTO. They all eat.)

CHARLEMAGNE

Well, Flippicus. You must have a great many adventures given you're *the* Flippicus the Fabled.

FLIP

(Through clenched teeth.)

The manyest.

CHARLEMAGNE

I have a great many tales of my valor up and down Ebo-Racūm Novūm. Before I was a valiant king I was a fierce warrior. And before that... A poet and lyricist.

QUINN TALIA

(Enamoured:)

Oh my...

(FLIP groans. CHARLEMAGNE continues recounting tales under the following.)

AVĒ FEMINA

More wine?

SARAH

I shouldn't.

AVĒ FEMINA

It's good.

SARAH

I know that. I've already had some. Must you always know what is best for me?

AVĒ FEMINA

I tend to be correct. You've never argued with my reasoning before.

SARAH

That wine has always been more tempting.

AVĒ FEMINA

Then perhaps you would be foolish not to enjoy it while it is present.

ROWAN

Can I try some of this wine?

SARAH AND AVĒ FEMINA

NO.

CHARLEMAGNE

...It was as I was holding down the fierce Squawklebee that I saw in it's eyes the one thing that I had never seen before. Respect. That's the moment I knew that I was destined to be King.

(QUĪNN TALIA swoons.)

Squire, are you writing this down?

OTTO

Oh, yes, My Lord.

CHARLEMAGNE

Don't mind, Otto. He's a little slow but he's the most trusted scribe one could ask for. Isn't that right, Otto?

OTTO

Uhm...

(He leafs back a few pages of parchment.)

Yes.

CHARLEMAGNE

Hush now.

(Standing from the table:)

What a delicious feast. My compliments to the Woodlands. Now, I must get my hands upon the Blade

(MORE)



of Durendal!

QUINNNTALIA

Uh-uh! Not so fast. The Blade of Durendal is not to be handed over until after our wedding.

*(FLIP spits out his drink.)*

FLIP

Your **WHAT?**

AVE FEMINA

*(To SARAH:)*

You didn't tell him?

FLIP

*(To SARAH:)*

You knew?

ROWAN

*(To SARAH:)*

When did she tell you?

SARAH

Uh... Earlier.

OTTO

Could you all slow down, please? I'm having a very hard time writing all of this down.

CHARLEMAGNE

Quiet. I am here for one reason.

OTTO

Two reasons.

CHARLEMAGNE

I am here for two reasons. To obtain the Blade of Durendal and to marry the love of my life, Quinn...

QUINNNTALIA

--Talía.

CHARLEMAGNE

Quinnntalia, yes. The love of my life. Now where is the Blade?

QUĪNNTALIA

You may have the blade after our wedding. Until then we have many things to do.

*(FLIP pulls QUINNTALIA aside.)*

FLIP

Talia, what are you doing? This guy is obviously only here for the Blade of Durendal.

QUĪNNTALIA

Quiet, Flip.

*(Reminding him, loud enough for the other's to hear.)*

You know not of the Blade of Durendal. King Charlemagne and I's marriage is the only union strong enough to keep the Goblins of the Mortiferous Mountains at bay. Now hush yourself, you've distracted me enough from our guest already.

*(She joins CHARLEMAGNE.)*

Come now, King. We have a great many deal of things to accomplish.

CHARLEMAGNE

Such as what?

QUĪNNTALIA

I have already bestowed you with the Knowledge of the Blade of Durendal. I have but one more gift for you to receive.

FLIP

That's it. We're leaving.

*(He EXITS, bumping shoulders with CHARLEMAGNE.)*

CHARLEMAGNE

Have I upset you in some matter, Flippicus?

FLIP

No, King Charlemagne. You haven't. In fact, where I'm from, when you become such good pals with someone,

(MORE)

FLIP (CONT'D)

you give them a nickname. A name  
only good friends can call them.

CHARLEMAGNE

I like this namenick! What doth  
though dub me?

FLIP

I dub thee, dipshit. It means to be  
the greatest.

CHARLEMAGNE

I like this!  
An announcement: I declare all thee  
refer to me as Dipshitticus the  
Greatest. It is a name given to me  
by my friend...  
Flippicus the Fabled.

*(OTTO cheers.)*

FLIP

Careful! If you tell people to call  
you by it, it won't stick.

ROWAN

Come on, Sarah.

*(He turns, searching.)*

Where are Sarah and Avē Femina?

*(OTTO unfurls the parchment he  
has been scribing upon.)*

OTTO

*(Reading:)*

-Let's go.  
-Your quarters or mine?  
-Yours.  
-Good, follow me.  
Sarah the Elf and Avē Femina the  
Woodland exit.  
-I dub thee, "Dipshit." It means  
the Greatest.

ROWAN

Thank you.

OTTO

Nahyeah.

ROWAN

*(Calling out:)*

Sarah?

*(ROWAN EXITS.)*

FLIP

Talia?

*(QUINN TALIA looks. A moment.)*

Goodbye.

QUINN TALIA

So long, Flipi--

CHARLEMAGNE

So long, friend! Many safe travels.

FLIP

You, too. Dipshit.

*(CHARLEMAGNE points at FLIP and grins in recognition of his nickname.)*

*(FLIP EXITS.)*

THE ELDER

The most common folly of any adventurer is hubris. And Flip's quest for Quinntalia's love would lead him so very astray. The greatest weakness of any man is the woman he loves.

THE AUTHOR

The greatest weakness of any man is feeling entitled to the woman he loves.

*(THE ELDER is taken aback but nods approvingly.)*

THE ELDER

Oh foolish, Flippicus. So much to learn, and such little time.

*(He spans his hand, releasing a dark magic into the air. The sound of a war cry cuts through the land as darkness engulfs the world.)*

END SCENE.

SCENE 12

*THE DOORWAY OF SARAH'S  
QUARTERS.*

*(ROWAN enters, his pack on his  
back. A flower in his hand.  
SARAH opens the door.)*

SARAH

Rowan, have you any idea what time  
it is?

ROWAN

Sarah--

*(AVĒ FEMINA appears.)*

And Ave? What were you two...?

SARAH AND AVĒ FEMINA

Battle Practice.

ROWAN

No matter. Flip is gone. Vanished,  
there's not a sign of him.

*(BEAT.)*

Sarah, I have a very terrible  
feeling in my stomach.

*(WOODLAND GUARDS ENTER.)*

WOODLAND GUARD

Commander Avē. We caught Flippicus  
sneaking about the Royal Hall.

AVĒ FEMINA

What? Why was I not informed?

WOODLAND GUARD

We couldn't find you. The Elf's  
quarters were the last place we  
thought to look.

AVĒ FEMINA

Where is the Fabled one being kept?

WOODLAND GUARD

He got away. With the Blade of  
Durendal. We led pursuit until he  
fled into the Dark Forbidding  
Woods.

ROWAN

He left us... Why would he do that?

*(OTTO ENTERS, clearing his throat.)*

OTTO

*(Reading:)*

Flippicus the Fabled enters his quarters angrily.

-Stupid Charlemagne with his stupid Kingdom of the Coles and his stupid Squawklebee story. I'll show him. I'll show all of them. When I get my hands on the Blade of Durendal, I'll be good enough for Quinntalia.

*(He clears his throat.)*

Flippicus the Fabled exits.

*(All stare at OTTO.)*

ROWAN

You recorded all of that?

THE AUTHOR

*(Looking down into the world:)*

Who writes that much shit down?

OTTO

I record all kinds of things. All things. It's my job.

SARAH

What else do you have written down upon there?

*(OTTO looks at his parchment:)*

OTTO

Sarah the Elf and Avē Femina of the Woodlands enter Sarah's Quarters.

-Try not to bite the points of my ears this time.

*(SARAH blocks his parchment.)*

SARAH

That's enough. So, he's gone?

AVE FEMINA

How could Flippicus hold the  
Knowledge of the Blade of Durendal?  
That is only meant to go to those  
who...

*(Realizing:)*

Oh... Our Queen is a most loving  
hostess.

SARAH

Rowan, what's that in your hand?

*(She gestures to the flower.)*

ROWAN

Oh... It was for... Otto. Because I  
thought he might... like it.

*(He gives it to OTTO.)*

OTTO

*(Writing:)*

It appears the Halfling admires  
Otto.

AVE FEMINA

*(To the GUARD:)*

Retire for the night. He's  
Squawklebee Bait out there. If he  
comes to his senses he will return  
and we will handle things then.  
'Til then, may Gods pittty the fool.

ROWAN

Sarah, why would Flip leave us?

SARAH

Because, Rowan. Flip is one of  
those special people in life who,  
when given a right choice and a  
wrong choice, always manages to  
blow it.

END SCENE.

SCENE 13

THE WOODS.

(FLIP ENTERS, creeping slowly,  
engulfed in darkness.)

FLIP

This blows. No wonder they call it  
THE DARK, FORBIDDING WOODS LITTERED  
WITH TALKING SPIDERS AND VIOLENT  
CREATURES WITH TREE TOPS SO THICK  
YOU COULDN'T SEE THE SUNLIGHT FOR  
DAYS AT A TIME. I wish I had a  
flashlight.

(Thinks of the world.)

Or like a lantern. Or something.

(A rustle in the distance.

FLIP draws his SPATULA.)

Who goes there?

(A recognizable laugh.)

Show yourself. I mean you no harm.  
Unless I have to. In which case I  
mean to harm the shit out of you.

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR

Quite a weapon you've got there.  
Not quite the Blade of Durendal,  
but it'll do.

FLIP

Schmeldric Proditor? Of the Damned?  
What're you doing here... And  
alive?

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR

I made a little deal here and  
there. Got my hands on these...

(He raises a small rope,  
threaded together with teeth.)

Spider's Fangs: Venom.  
Squawklebee Incisors: Trophies.

(BEAT. Emphasizing:)

Goblin's Teeth: Sharp as Razors.  
Long as knives.

FLIP

Goblins... Of the Mortiferous

(MORE)



FLIP (CONT'D)

Mountains.

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR

It's amazing what Goblins will grant you if you tell them what they're willing to hear. And get them what they want. Say, where is girly and her short fellow?

FLIP

Gone. I'm no longer in contact with them.

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR

That's too bad! Too bad, too bad. Seemed like alright peoples. Unless, of course, you're the rotten person. I suppose that's a possibility, isn't it? What do I know? I'm just a common thief. I'm sure you're much better than I, aren't you...

(BEAT.)

Flippicus.

(FLIP lands a solid kick sending SCHMELDRIC stumbling.)

FLIP

You don't know me, old man. I'm nothing like you.

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR

Then what's that you've got in your pack? I see the power, coursing through the seams. Someone is more like I then they lets on.

FLIP

How do you know this? What have you done to me?

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR

It's not what I've done...

(He waits. Nothing.)

That's when you're supposed to come out.

CHARLEMAGNE (OFFSTAGE)

Ohp, just missed it. Do it again?

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR  
It's not what I've done...

(*Again, nothing.*)  
What're you waiting for?

CHARLEMAGNE (OFFSTAGE)  
I'm waiting for you to set me up!

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR  
That is your set up! We're doing  
this one more time. Okay?

(*Nothing.*)  
Okay?

CHARLEMAGNE (OFFSTAGE)  
Okay! Be loud!

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR  
I AM BEING--

(*Reaffirming himself:*)  
***I am being loud.***

(*A deep breath.*)  
It's not what--

CHARLEMAGNE  
(*Revealing himself:*)  
But what we've done!

FLIP  
King Charlemagne? You know  
Schmeldric Proditor the Damned?

CHARLEMAGNE  
Of course! He's the fellow who's  
going to me the Blade of Durendal!  
He's the one who made up this whole  
"impending attack from the Goblins  
of the Mortiferous Mountains" bit.  
Now the Woodlands get the defense  
they need and I get the Blade of  
Durendal. It's called a  
Squid-Low-Blow.

FLIP  
Quid-pro-quo?

CHARLEMAGNE  
Yes, Spin-Flow-Clothes.

FLIP

You're a cheat. You don't deserve Quinntalia and you don't deserve to rule any kingdom.

CHARLEMAGNE

That's the thing you'll come to learn, Flippicus. In this world there are kings and there are followers. Followers follow the king, the king leads. And when the world puts rules into place, they're made to crush followers, make them malleable and searching for someone to lead. Kings don't have to follow rules. Because they make rules. And it is because of this, followers kneel to kings. And you?

*(He pats FLIP'S head.)*

You will learn. I hope you're not too upset about things, in fact I hope that we can still remain friends. You seem very kind. Now hand over the Blade of Durendal.

*(FLIP pushes away.)*

FLIP

So the whole Goblin Attack was bogus? A hoax?

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR

I wouldn't exactly say that.

*(A boom echoes throughout the land. Smoke rises.)*

FLIP

The Goblins... The Land of the Woodlands is under siege. You TRAITOR.

*(He looks like he may cry.)*

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR

The betrayed will act in the most vile of ways and hardly recognize their own actions.

CHARLEMAGNE

Wait... You said that the Goblins  
wouldn't actually lay siege to the  
land...

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR

It would appear King Charlemagne is  
not only corrupt, but foolish. You  
two have more in common than it  
seems.

CHARLEMAGNE

You... You deceived me.

*(BEAT.)*

Delightful job, Schmeldric!

*(He pats him on the back.*

*Then, to Flip:)*

Well, if you'll excuse me it would  
appear I have some Goblins to  
remove from my kingdom.

*(He grabs his hilt.)*

Using my hefty sword. Keep that  
Blade warm for me, I'll be  
returning for it soon.

*(He takes a deep breath.)*

It's a good day to be a bad man.

*(He EXITS.)*

SCHMELDRIC PRODITOR

The question is, Flip, what will  
you do now?

*(FLIP thinks for a moment,  
backing away. He takes out his  
SPATULA and breaks it over his  
knee. He takes out the Blade  
of Durendal and attaches it to  
the hilt, raising it to the  
sky. He turns and runs to the  
Land of the Woodlands.)*

Godspeed, Flippicus.

*(He picks up his things and  
moves on.)*

END SCENE.

SCENE 14

THE LAND OF THE WOODLANDS. ON  
FIRE.

*(Battle wages. WOODLANDS and  
GOBLINS fight each other to  
the teeth. ENTER SARAH, ROWAN,  
AVE, and OTTO.)*

AVE FEMINA

MOVE! I will hold them at bay!

*(The others pass on as AVE  
begins to slay each GOBLIN.)*

SARAH

I've got your back!

*(A swift arrow pierces a  
GOBLIN moments before  
attacking AVE from behind.  
Together they hold down the  
fort as the others barricade  
themselves in.)*

*(FLIP ENTERS, bloodied.)*

ROWAN

Look who decided to show up!

FLIP

Guys! I came as soon as I heard the  
attack.

SARAH

We were doing just fine without you  
actually.

*(She slays a GOBLIN.)*

FLIP

I'm sure. I just thought another  
hand wouldn't hurt.

SARAH

So now you want to be with us.

FLIP

I'd never wanted to hurt any of  
you!

AVĒ FEMINA

Is that the Blade of Durendal?

FLIP

No. This weapon goes by a new name now. I am Flippicus and this? This is The Fable.

AVĒ FEMINA

If you'd kept your grubby hands away from the Blade the Goblins wouldn't have been able to attack in the first place. That's why Charlemagne is here. To protect us!

FLIP

Ave, Schmeldric Proditor the Damned went to the Goblins on the Mortiferous Mountains. He is the one who brought upon this attack.

AVĒ FEMINA

Traitor.

QUĪNNTALIA

We have sent for King Charlemagne's troops. We just need to hold the Goblins at bay until they arrive.

FLIP

Can do.

SARAH

Don't think you're off the hook for abandoning us.

FLIP

Wouldn't dream of it.

*(The battle continues, Goblins being slain left and right. THE ELDER can be seen admiring the battle. He pulls a miniature beast from his drawer and places it down. A great thumping is heard. The GOBLIN KING rises.)*

GOBLIN KING

THE LAND OF THE WOODLANDS WILL RUN  
RED WITH WOODLAND BLOOD.

*(KING CHARLEMAGNE ENTERS,  
triumphantly seeking battle.)*

CHARLEMAGNE  
Vile, pernicious beast. It is I,  
Lord Charlemagne of Western--

*(A smack from the GOBLIN KING  
sends CHARLEMAGNE flying.)*

FLIP  
Can we take him?

SARAH  
I can.

ROWAN  
No! I've got it!

*(To the GOBLIN KING:)*  
Hey ugly!

GOBLIN KING  
Hmmm?

ROWAN  
You want a piece of this?

GOBLIN KING  
YOU DARE PROVOKE THE GOBLIN KING?

ROWAN  
*(Loading his slingshot.)*  
Uh, duh.

*(He fires a shot into the  
GOBLIN'S eye.)*

GOBLIN KING  
**AHHHHHH!** HE'S BLINDED ME!

*(He grabs ROWAN.)*  
I've got you, Half-Man! And now I'm  
going to kill you. I'm going to eat  
you and spit up your skeleton like  
an apple core.

ROWAN  
How the hell do you eat apples?

*(The GOBLIN KING slams ROWAN,  
incapacitating him.)*

SARAH

Rowan!

*(She rushes forward.)*

Do not harm the Halfling.

GOBLIN KING

And who's this?

SARAH

A girl with a very sharp arrow  
pointed directly at your throat.

*(The GOBLIN KING sniffs.)*

GOBLIN KING

Mmmm... Elf.

*(GOBLINS surround SARAH as she fights back, attempting to hold her own. The GOBLIN KING laughs. Meanwhile, a few GOBLINS have dragged CHARLEMAGNE'S body across the battlefield. They prop him up in front of the king on his knees. The king lifts his club and is preparing to execute CHARLEMAGNE. FLIP notices and glances towards QUINN TALIA. On an instinct he runs forward and decapitates the GOBLIN KING moments before he can club CHARLEMAGNE. The head falls slowly sending the other GOBLINS into a tizzy. FLIP helps up CHARLEMAGNE.)*

CHARLEMAGNE

Thank you, brave Flippicus.

*(FLIP looks from CHARLEMAGNE to QUINN TALIA who now looks on speechless.)*

FLIP

I didn't do it for you.

FRIGHTENED GOBLIN

**OUR KING! HE'S KILLED OUR KING!**



ANGRY GOBLIN  
WELL, KILL HIM!

FLIP  
Oh great.

*(Suddenly, KING CHARLEMAGNE'S  
TROOPS, led by OTTO, arrive  
with a battle cry)*

OTTO  
Hope nobody minds I forgot my pen,  
if there's anything worth writing  
down, it'll be written IN BLOOD.

FRIGHTENED GOBLIN  
THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM. RETREAT  
TO THE MORTIFEROUS MOUNTAINS!

*(The GOBLINS begins scrambling  
as the others cheer  
triumphantly. ROWAN wakes up.)*

ROWAN  
...And stay out!

*(He collapses back down as the  
world shifts to dawn of the  
next day. All stand in front  
of CHARLEMAGNE and QUINNNTALIA.  
QUINNNTALIA holds the FABLE.)*

CHARLEMAGNE  
Thank you, Flippicus. You have  
saved our kingdom. And my life.

FLIP  
Charlemagne, it's no problem.

CHARLEMAGNE  
And, as I now rule this Kingdom  
alongside my Queen, I may no longer  
be referred to as King Charlemagne  
of Western Coles. I must now be  
referred to as King Dipshit the  
Great.

FLIP  
You don't have to call yourself  
Dipshit. You're better than that.  
You're going to rule this kingdom  
very well, Dickmunch.

*(CHARLEMAGNE grows with excitement.)*

CHARLEMAGNE  
A new namenick! I am Dickmunch of  
Fliplandicus. Named after the  
fabled one who saved us.

CHARLEMAGNE'S COURT  
FLIPLANDICUS!

FLIP  
Thanks. But I didn't do much.

*(He looks to ROWAN and SARAH.)*  
Without these two no one would have  
been saved... If anyone deserves  
thanks, it's them.

*(He pulls them closer.)*

*(Quietly, so only they can hear:)*  
I'm sorry I left.

SARAH  
We know.

*(They break from the huddle.)*

SARAH  
But, we must be headed off towards  
the City once again.

ROWAN  
But we will not soon forget your  
hospitality.

QUINN TALIA  
Do not forget your Blade.

*(She hands THE FABLE to FLIP.)*  
As a sign of thanks for saving the  
life of my King. The Blade of  
Durendal is yours. After all, it is  
reserved for the most sacred of  
heroes.

*(CHARLEMAGNE nods.)*

FLIP  
Thanks.

AVĒ FEMINA

Sarah, before you go...

*(Everyone turns to her.)*

There's something I'd like to announce. I will be relinquishing my duty as Captain of the Guard. Otto will now command this battalion.

*(OTTO snaps to attention, checks through his scroll, then throws it onto the ground and draws a sword, signaling a salute.)*

OTTO

Captain Otto! Reporting for duty, troops.

*(He tosses his scroll at a WOODLAND GUARD.)*

You. Start writing everything you see and do not stop until I say.

*(The guard nods.)*

WRITE THAT DOWN!

*(The guard begins writing.)*

AVĒ FEMINA

I will be leaving the Land of the Woodlands.

SARAH

You're coming with us?

AVĒ FEMINA

No. I look to travel to parts of Ebo-Racūm Novūm I've never seen. I venture to seek those who are just like me.

SARAH

Don't you worry people will say you're running away?

AVĒ FEMINA

They may. But I know I am not running. I am only looking for where I belong.

*(She takes SARAH'S hand.)*

Goodbye, Sarah.

*(SARAH cups AVĒ FEMINA'S  
face.)*

SARAH

Goodbye, Avē. Safe travels.

*(A moment and they release.  
SARAH, FLIP, and ROWAN leave  
THE LAND OF THE WOODLANDS.)*

ALL

*(Ad lib:)*

So long, safe travels, write us...

*(The LAND OF THE WOODLANDS  
disappears.)*

THE AUTHOR

*(Reading:)*

Flippicus the Fabled, Sarah of the  
Elves, and Rowan the Halfling  
traveled on from the Land of the  
Woodlands which was now renamed  
Fliplandicus after the hero who had  
saved it. They waded across the  
River of Aequallavium, slid across  
the pit of ash of the Silmaril, and  
narrowly made it out of the  
Squawklbee nest (lucky to escape  
with their lives). They were  
pleased with the ease they found  
venturing towards The City...  
That is, of course, until Flippicus  
got cold feet.

*(FLIP doubles over in pain.)*

FLIP

Aghhh...

*(He's shuttering.)*

ROWAN

Hey, Flip. Are you alright.

FLIP

Yeah, just a little cold is all.

SARAH

How can you be cold? It's  
sweltering out.

FLIP

I don't know, I just am. And my  
fingertips sting.

*(He begins massaging the ends  
of his glove.)*

SARAH

Let me see.

*(She removes his glove gently  
revealing his hand has begun  
turning black. Frostbite.)*

ROWAN

Is that... Frostbite?

SARAH

Flip, you haven't snuck off to the  
tips of the mountains lately, have  
you?

FLIP

You know, it was top of my to-do  
list but I never quite got around  
to it.

*(He snatches his glove back.)*

SARAH

We need to get you home quickly.

*(ROWAN has turned around  
behind them, awestruck.)*

ROWAN

Um, guys?

SARAH

I'm not sure how much farther off  
we are from the city.

*(FLIP sees what ROWAN has been  
gawking at.)*

FLIP

Um, Sarah?

SARAH

Your safest bet is to keep yourself warm. We can stop for the night and stoke up a fire to...

*(ROWAN turns her around to see. There is the skyline of THE CITY.)*

That's it...

ROWAN

Oh man...

FLIP

It's an island?

*(They stand in silence.)*

SARAH

We did it.

*(BEAT.)*

HELL YEAH, BOYS! WE'VE MADE IT!

*(She begins jumping for joy, ecstatic. It's contagious as ROWAN and FLIP begin high five-ing each other. SARAH hugs FLIP tight. As she reaches ROWAN she gives him a quick kiss. ROWAN savors the kiss, discombobulated.)*

SARAH (CONT'D)

Come now! I'll race you to the bank!

*(She and FLIP take off running. ROWAN turns to catch them but they're already gone. He looks to where they once were then to where they left but now he seems confused.)*

ROWAN

Guys?

*(Fear begins to set in as he realizes he's all alone.)*

Where did you go?

*(Darkness falls. An evil mystery fills the air.)*

THE AUTHOR

Does it need to happen this way?

THE ELDER

I'm afraid so.

*(A crack of lightning and THE SHAPE, a large, indistinct black creature with tendrils begins approaching ROWAN from behind. As it reaches him he attempts to draw his weapon but his wrist is wrapped around, forcing his arm high and pelting him in the face. THE SHAPE ignores his struggle and wraps itself all around him, binding his legs, arms, and chest before finally wrapping tightly around his neck. His struggle slows until finally ROWAN looks out, accepting what may come.)*

ROWAN

Okay.

*(And with that ROWAN is lifted and pulled back by THE SHAPE, dragged to the depths of the stage and out of view with a final bloodcurdling scream. ROWAN'S BLOOD stains THE ELDER'S STUDY.)*

BLACKOUT.

END SCENE.

END OF ACT 1

START OF ACT 2SCENE 1

*SOCKEYE'S, Two weeks before graduation.*

*(FLIP and ROWAN work the front counter back in the real world, the same way they were in Act One. FLIP attempts to busy himself. ROWAN has given up on working, staring off desolately. He looks messy and sickly, as if he hasn't showered or slept in days.)*

FLIP

You ever noticed how weird *medieval* is spelled? It's like, it doesn't have "mid" or "evil" in it. It's all silent "e's" and an "a" that sounds like an "i." Who's idea was that?

*(He looks to ROWAN who has ignored or not heard him.)*

Awfully quiet this afternoon.

ROWAN

Not in the mood to chat.

FLIP

Clearly.

*(BEAT.)*

When do you leave? Joe has me switching to full time after graduation. Means I'll probably just pick up your usual hours.

ROWAN

*(Still not looking:)*

Mmhmm.

*(FLIP becomes annoyed.)*

FLIP

Look, dude. I didn't wake my ass up at eleven O'clock in the morning to get the silent treatment, okay? What's your issue?



ROWAN

Back off, Flip. You wouldn't give a shit.

FLIP

And why not?

ROWAN

You want to know? You really want to know?

FLIP

If I didn't, I wouldn't have asked, but I assumed you already knew that since you're Sherlock freaking Holmes all the sudden, knowing what everyone does and doesn't give a shit about.

ROWAN

I didn't get in, okay? They sent back my application.

*(BEAT.)*

FLIP

Columbia?

ROWAN

Yeah.

FLIP

*(Subtle guilt:)*

Oh. I'm--

ROWAN

Sorry? Yeah. Me, too. Forget it.

*(FLIP thinks for a moment, the tension in the air in impossible to endure.)*

FLIP

Well, don't worry about that, okay? I'm not even going to college so you're already ahead of--

ROWAN

Well not everyone can be happy doing nothing with their lives. I'm sorry that I'm not going to be content living up to some deadbeat,

(MORE)

ROWAN (CONT'D)

alright?

*(FLIP is hurt though doesn't disagree.)*

FLIP

Okay. I'm a deadbeat. But you? This isn't like you, you've got it all together. You've got a life to live. So, you got rejected? So you're in the dumps? Pick yourself up, get back out there. It's time to--

ROWAN

Don't you DARE come at me with that, "Buck up or Shut up" *bullshit!*

*(BEAT.)*

FLIP

So why don't you just go to another school?

ROWAN

You don't get it. This school was the ten-year plan. It's where I told everyone I'd be going, it's where my mom bought the shirts for. This is supposed to be the next step for me. I've worked as hard as I could every second of my life to make sure I get into this school and now what? It's all for nothing because of a fucking SAT. Because you sit there and look at the problems on the page and you remember back to how you've done them before and never lost any sleep over them but now all you can think of is that clock on the wall which is counting down and the proctor in the room staring you down like a hawk in case you decide to cheat on the most important test of your life. And you can feel the sweat coming down your forehead and seeping through your palms making the paper stick to you hands and you can hear your heart racing in

(MORE)

ROWAN (CONT'D)

your ears and you regret taking your little brother's Adderall that morning even though it got you through the English portion of the test without any sleep. But now your eyes are just so heavy and tired but your body refuses to feel sleepy so you just start itching on the inside of your eyelids and you just can't focus until finally it's time for that test to be picked up and your page is just empty circles and you don't have a choice but to turn it in just the way it is. And I don't want to live my life turning in empty circles but now... I know that might be hard for you to understand. But we can't all be happy aspiring to flip burgers for the rest of our lives.

(BEAT.)

FLIP

Living up to nothing isn't so bad. I've never failed to meet someone's expectations.

ROWAN

No one has expectations for you.

FLIP

Exactly, so they're already met! I'm sorry you dropped the ball. I'm sorry you let your mom down. And I'm sorry for this but I'm going to give you some advice you need: GET OVER YOURSELF. The sooner you stop holding yourself to these impossible standards, the sooner you stop giving a rat's ass, the better your life will get.

ROWAN

(Softening:)

Getting into that school was everything to me. I'm such a let down. A screw up.

FLIP

You're not a screw up. Or a let

(MORE)

FLIP (CONT'D)

down. You understand me?

ROWAN

None of this matters, Flip. The dragons and the knights and the overpriced hamburgers. It's all fake. We're fakes. You're a deadbeat. And I'm a let down-screw up.

*(He lifts his shirt.)*

See?

*(FLIP stares in disbelief for a moment. He then pulls ROWAN'S shirt back down.)*

FLIP

What the hell are you doing?

*(ROWAN grabs him.)*

ROWAN

Flip. You have to help me. I wish I was dead. Being dead is better than being a let down and a screw up. Am I supposed to feel this way?

*(FLIP thinks for a long time.)*

FLIP

You shouldn't have shown me that, man. I'm sorry about Columbia. Let's just get back to work, okay?

ROWAN

Okay.

*(He's stuck shaking his head no.)*

*(BLACKOUT.)*

*(THE CAST lines the stage. Each reads an individual line from the letter.)*

*(ROWAN appears. He's shirtless. Carved into his chest are the words FUCK UP. The scars are old but fresh blood is dried onto his chest. He watches on.)*

## ROWAN'S NOTE

All I ever wanted was to make you proud. All I ever wanted was to see you be happy at what I could do. I never stopped trying to reach my goals. Not once. The world overlooks people like us, people with desires and aspirations, because it's fun to watch us fail. This is me telling the world that I'm done being laughed at. I'm done failing for your amusement. I'm just so done. I made sure to take off my glasses, I didn't want the lenses to pop back out of the frames. They're on the desk beside Donnie's toys. You can give him his slingshot back, I think he's old enough to know how to play with it by now.

I'm so, so sorry, Mom. I just hope that, despite everything, I made you proud of me.

Love you,  
Ro--

*(THE NOTE is stopped short by the drop of a chair, the tightening of a rope, and a desperate choking sound.)*

*(THE ELDER appears with a blanket. He looks to ROWAN, waiting for him to join him. ROWAN shakes his head but THE ELDER nods. ROWAN hangs his head as THE ELDER wraps the blanket around his shoulders, covering his scars. As the blanket hits ROWAN'S shoulders, he turns and wraps his arms around THE ELDER, clutching him the same way a child clutches their parent after losing them in a crowd in a strange new place. The comfort of maybe not being lost forever. THE ELDER leads ROWAN offstage. Simultaneously, LIGHTS UP in*

*the LOCK-IN FREEZER. FLIP'S inside.)*

*(BLACKOUT.)*

*(LIGHTS UP in the world of EBO-RACŪM NOVŪM. FLIP suddenly wakes in a cold sweat on the bank alone. He looks around confusedly.)*

FLIP

Rowan?

*(He begins to search around but quickly falters in pain.)*

*(SARAH ENTERS.)*

SARAH

Flip!

*(She catches him.)*

How're you feeling?

*(He begins to shake it off.)*

FLIP

Fine. Just cold.

SARAH

Let me check your hand.

*(She slips his glove off. The frostbite has spread, now consuming his entire hand and most of his wrist.)*

FLIP

That's not a great sign...

*(He begins twisting it, moving his fingers.)*

I can't even feel it.

*(SARAH begins gathering things.)*

SARAH

Come on, we need to move. There's a bridge just around the way.

*(She begins moving.)*

FLIP

Sarah, where's Rowan?

*(SARAH turns.)*

SARAH

Who?

*(BEAT.)*

FLIP

Ro... Rowan.

SARAH

I have no idea who you're speaking of.

*(FLIP takes a moment. He shakes his head.)*

FLIP

*(Losing it:)*

No, no, no... Rowan was right here with us. He traveled with us from the South Fields, all the way across Ebo-Racūm Novūm. He was our friend and we weren't there for him when he needed us.

*(Grabbing SARAH.)*

Why weren't we there for him?

*(SARAH steps back.)*

SARAH

Flip, you're scaring me. You're really sick. It's just been you and me, remember? We followed the Northern Star of Jupico here. You're really, really sick, Flip. We need to hurry and get into The City where someone can help.

*(FLIP takes a step back, examining his hand. Is he crazy?)*

FLIP

Yeah... Yeah. Can you show me to that bridge now?

SARAH

Of course. This way.

*(She begins to EXIT. FLIP follows but turns to find something on the ground. He leans down and picks up ROWAN'S SLINGSHOT, the last hope that ROWAN wasn't a piece of his imagination. He holsters it in his gear and EXITS.)*

*END SCENE.*



SCENE 2

## THE ELDER'S STUDY

*(THE AUTHOR finishes typing the last bit and, with the ding of the typewriter, sits back to examine it.)*

THE AUTHOR

That wasn't easy.

THE ELDER

Quiet. It's never supposed to be easy.

THE AUTHOR

Did it have to happen this way? Really?

THE ELDER

There's a number of ways it could have happened, this is the best way for him to learn...

*(Some COOES come from THE ELDER'S cupboard. THE ELDER turns in excitement.)*

Oh goodie. He's awake.

*(THE ELDER turns to go towards his cupboard. THE AUTHOR stands curiously, nervously.)*

THE AUTHOR

Who? Who's awake?

*(THE ELDER has opened the cupboard door and appears to be coaxing something out.)*

THE ELDER

*(Clicking with his tongue:)*

Come on now, don't be shy.

*(THE ELDER steps back from the cupboard with SOCKEYE, a small dragon, perched upon his shoulder, tail winding down his arm.)*

Say hello, my pet.

THE AUTHOR

Is that...?

THE ELDER

This is my little one. Come, pet him. Sockeye, say hello.

*(SOCKEYE gives a small screech. THE AUTHOR comes forward timidly.)*

He's small now. But he will soon be of great importance, much like our friend Flippicus. You, too have yet to play a very important role, isn't that right, Sockey?

*(In a pet voice:)*

Yes it is! Yes it is, indeed!

*(The dragon enjoys being petted and talked to as such but gives a small growl when THE AUTHOR comes too close.)*

Alright, back to work.

*(They all sit down.)*

Where where we?

*(On THE BRIDGE:)*

FLIP

Where are we?

SARAH

This is the bridge leading in and out of The City. It's the only footpath in or out but it appears its been out of use for a millennia or so. The middle has been bashed through.

FLIP

Could we jump it?

SARAH

You could try.

FLIP

Hmm... Even if we did get across that bridge how would we get over that wall?

*(SARAH notices something out*

*of the corner of her eye.)*

SARAH

Boat...

FLIP

Like... A climbing boat?

SARAH

No... We're not going over that wall. We're sailing under it.

*(She grabs FLIP by the collar.)*

FLIP

No, no, wait, Sarah! Let's talk about this!

*(They jump off of the bridge, towards the waters below.)*

*(The scene shifts to the deck of the cargo ship.)*

*(SARAH and FLIP land with a CRASH.)*

FATHER MINNOW

You alright there? That's a mighty fall you took.

*(FLIP is recuperating from having the wind knocked out of him. SARAH rolls over with a groan.)*

MOTHER MINNOW

Look. They're so young.

FATHER MINNOW

Yes, they are young.

MOTHER MINNOW

And look at their clothes... They must have come from very far away.

FATHER MINNOW

Yes, very far away. Very far.

*(FLIP begins to stand.)*

FLIP

I am...

*(FATHER MINNOW knocks him onto his back.)*

MOTHER MINNOW

Oh my, Father Minnow. It's another human. I've never...

FATHER MINNOW

Hush, I see.

*(To FLIP:)*

Uh-uh. Not so fast there. State your business on *The Tabellarium*.

FLIP

I thought we were on a boat.

FATHER MINNOW

*The Tabellarium* is my boat, dull one.

SARAH

We seek to gain passage into The City.

*(They both look to SARAH, then back away slowly.)*

FATHER MINNOW

Elf...

*(FLIP stands.)*

Now you back away now, you hear? We don't want any trouble.

FLIP

What're you talking about?

FATHER MINNOW

Come here, boy. Don't stand too close to that Elf over there.

FLIP

Who, Sarah?

SARAH

Please, I mean you no harm.

MOTHER MINNOW

That's what they all say. Up, both

(MORE)

MOTHER MINNOW (CONT'D)

of you. We won't have any Elf on our boat. Boy, you can either stay with us or go overboard with her.

FLIP

What!?

FATHER MINNOW

You heard her. Stand up, Elf!

*(SARAH does as she's told.)*

FLIP

Come on, be reasonable! You don't have to do this!

*(FATHER MINNOW backs them to the edge.)*

FATHER MINNOW

Yes we do! You know how it is with these Elf types. Always traveling in tribes or packs. First there's one and then next thing you know they've taken over the entire land, driving you and your family out.

FLIP

That's not true! I'm Sarah's only tribe! It's just she and I.

*(He thinks for a moment.)*

Yeah, just us two.

MOTHER MINNOW

So, you and her are traveling together?

FLIP

Yes. She's my friend. And if she's going overboard then I'll have to go, too.

*(They all hold still for a moment. A touching moment. FATHER MINNOW grabs them both by the back of their collars and hangs them over the edge of the boat.)*

FATHER MINNOW

Then overboard you both go. And if you survive the waters let this be

(MORE)

FATHER MINNOW (CONT'D)

a lesson to all your pillaging  
friends!

SARAH

Please, we're not pillagers!

FATHER MINNOW

Warriors?

SARAH

No.

MOTHER MINNOW

Missionaries?

FLIP

What? No!

FATHER MINNOW

Well, what are ya?

*(He shakes them. FLIP looks to  
SARAH. Should they say?)*

SARAH

*(After a deep breath:)*

WE'RE ADVENTURERS!

HANNAH MINNOW

Adventurers?

*(Little HANNAH MINNOW, 10, has  
appeared. FATHER MINNOW  
glances over.)*

FATHER MINNOW

Hannah Minnow! What're you doing  
outside of the Captain's Quarters?

*(HANNAH MINNOW ignores him.)*

HANNAH MINNOW

Did you say you were adventurers?

FLIP

Yes! Yes, we are. We can tell you a  
great many stories of our daring  
adventures, little girl. You just  
have to tell your dad to put us  
back inside the boat!

*(HANNAH MINNOW looks to FATHER*

MINNOW.)

HANNAH MINNOW

Father?

*(FATHER MINNOW glances to  
MOTHER MINNOW.)*

FATHER MINNOW

You try saying no to that face.

*(He yanks SARAH and FLIP back  
into the boat. They land flat  
on their backs and scramble to  
their feet.)*

SARAH

Thank you, young one.

*(FLIP charges at FATHER  
MINNOW.)*

FLIP

What is your issue?

SARAH

Flip, no. It's me.

*(He looks at her.)*

It's my fault.

*(She looks to everyone.)*

It's time we had a talk.

MOTHER MINNOW

I'll put on the tea.

END SCENE.

SCENE 3

INSIDE THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN.

(FATHER MINNOW and SARAH sit at a table. FLIP sits on the floor with HANNAH.)

FLIP

And then I sliced like three Goblins in half at once. It was bad-ass.

HANNAH MINNOW

Bad-ass?

FLIP

Uh. It was neat. Yeah, neat. I did it using *this* sword.

(He unsheathes THE FABLE.)

HANNAH MINNOW

Whoa.

FLIP

Want to hold it?

HANNAH MINNOW

Can I, Daddy?

FATHER MINNOW

Carefully.

(HANNAH holds THE FABLE gingerly, slowly rotating it.)

HANNAH MINNOW

I've never left *The Tabellarium*, but when I do I'm going to find a sword just like this and I'm going to slay Goblins and Walking King Snakes and travel all across the world, just like you, Flippicus.

FLIP

It's just Flip.

FATHER MINNOW

That name sounds awfully familiar.

FLIP

I get that a lot.

(MORE)



FLIP (CONT'D)

Hold on. Did you say you've never been off of this boat?

FATHER MINNOW

All of our lives it has been Mother Minnow and I's job to bring goods into The City. People load our vessle and unload it. We never depart from it.

FLIP

But you had a kid?

FATHER MINNOW

*(Shrugging:)*

The job becomes boring quickly.

*(MOTHER MINNOW ENTERS holding a tray of tea.)*

FLIP

Okay. Now can you finally tell us what this thing is you all have against the Elves?

MOTHER MINNOW

Well, long ago when my greatest grandmother Minnow was only a girl, many different people lived all throughout Ebo-Racūm Novūm. Races lived together and embraced each other. The humans most prominently, given we had no distinct magic or power, we were able to harness the magic of others creatures' in exchange for our innovations in technology and all could prosper equally. It was when the Elves realized they were more powerful in tribes that they began to seize land we had built thriving communities upon, claiming it had belonged to their great ancestors hundreds of thousands of years prior. What could we do? Everyone lived in constant fear that the Elves would take the land and destroy what small villas we had been able to construct. They had complete control of Ebo-Racūm Novūm. It was then that a

(MORE)

MOTHER MINNOW (CONT'D)

mysterious being arrived to bring balance back to the world. Some say he was an Elder of old, some claim he was a god in human form... but we know what he really was.

FLIP

What?

MOTHER AND FATHER MINNOW  
Warlock.

FATHER MINNOW

Yep, it was your run of the mill warlock alright.

MOTHER MINNOW

No doubt about that. Anyways, the old Elder-Wizard-God-Warlock what-not banished the Elves to the West to build their tribes and conquer that side of the land. The Halflings fled underground and the rest of the world scattered, leaving Ebo-Racūm Novūm a deserted and dangerous land, littered with malicious creatures. Some races built monarchies, some people devolved into adventurers. But the Humans? They fled North and built The City, a haven safe from all types of creatures, but *especially* from Elves.

*(She eyes Sarah.)*

But that was a millennia ago so who knows if that's really what happened.

*(She sips her tea.)*

FLIP

Hold on... The Elves *gentrified* Ebo-Racūm Novūm? That's what everyone is so worked up about?

SARAH

No, Elves don't handle spells of the gentry. Those are warlocks.

ALL EXCEPT FLIP

Warlocks.

## MOTHER MINNOW

The mysterious being split the land with one promise. One day a hero would visit the land and bring with him balance, so all races may once again prosper together. Some fabled fellow... Flemy... Phillipine...

## FLIP

Flippicus! That's me! That's what I'm here for!

## FATHER MINNOW

I wouldn't go waving that news around within the walls of The City. Folks in there aren't too keen on anything that threatens to end their precious island of fortitude.

## FLIP

Well, you don't get it. Sarah isn't like those Elves, she lives outside the tribe. She's saved my life like twice--

## SARAH

(Aside:)

Four times.

## FLIP

And she merely searches for a place where she, too, can find acceptance. She took the time out of her journey to help me get to The City so I may find a way home. She's a good Elf. I trust her with my life and so could you.

## SARAH

Why don't you reside within The City like everyone else?

## FATHER MINNOW

Mother Minnow and I reside here on *The Tabellarium*. We may never get to see the inside of the walls but we hope that with enough hard work we may be able to send Hannah in for a better life.

*(HANNAH smiles.)*

FLIP

Wait a minute. Why don't you guys help us find a way into The City and we can help you guys find a way off this boat and build a life within the limits of The City. Dirt in the water.

*(FATHER MINNOW seems split.)*

MOTHER MINNOW

We couldn't ask you kids to do that.

*(FATHER MINNOW looks to HANNAH.)*

FATHER MINNOW

What do you propose? Residing within the walls of the The City is miraculously expensive, it would take two lifetimes as the captain of a supply ship to afford to stay there. Two lowly adventurers could never have anything that expensive on their person.

*(FLIP searches his pockets.)*

FLIP

I've got this?

*(He pulls out the D20 THE ELDER gifted him back in the real world.)*

FATHER MINNOW

The Dice of Vigīntī Imagīnīs  
Latērūm |Faciēs|.

FLIP

It's a die, actually.

FATHER MINNOW

This has been a talk of fable all throughout Ebo-Racūm Novūm. It is worth an unimaginable sum. How did you obtain it?

FLIP

Well, I'm Flippicus the Fabled. So

(MORE)

FLIP (CONT'D)

unimaginable fables are, like, my  
niche.

*(FATHER MINNOW pockets the  
D20.)*

Does this mean you'll get us into  
The City.

FATHER MINNOW

It's not you I'm worried about  
getting in.

*(He looks to SARAH.)*

They have defenses in place against  
your kind.

*(SARAH shoulders her bow.)*

SARAH

I'm not like the rest of my kind.

*(HANNAH tugs at her mother's  
dress.)*

HANNAH MINNOW

Does this mean we're going inside  
the Big City with our new friend  
Flip?

*(MOTHER looks to FATHER.  
FATHER MINNOW nods.)*

MOTHER MINNOW

Yes it does, honey.

*(HANNAH lifts the THE FABLE.)*

HANNAH MINNOW

Bad-ass.

*END SCENE.*

SCENE 4*THE ELDER'S STUDY*

THE AUTHOR

A Warlock?

THE ELDER

Everyone has a Warlock phase.

THE AUTHOR

*(Under his breath:)*

In their first thousand millennia.

THE ELDER

What was that?

THE AUTHOR

Nothing, nothing at all.

THE ELDER

*(Petting SOCKEYE:)*

Good.

*(Off SOCKEYE'S purrs:)*

Someone is excited.

THE AUTHOR

What're you planning on using that thing for?

THE ELDER

How many times must I tell you?

THE AUTHOR

Patience?

THE ELDER

Patience. Let us see how the two fair penetrating the walls of The City.

THE AUTHOR

They've been fairing well so far.

THE ELDER

This is true. In part to our assistance, in part to their own cunning. They will need to continue strong if they wish to make it to the end of their journey alive.

THE AUTHOR

That's good.

*(Typing:)*

If they wish to make it out alive.

*(To THE ELDER:)*

Are you sure about that?

*(Back on the deck of the boat,  
SARAH is being tied to the  
main mast by FATHER MINNOW.)*

FATHER MINNOW

I'm very sure. This is the only way.

SARAH

Just, does it need to be so tight?

MOTHER MINNOW

Trust us if you wish to make it into the walls of The City. The songs of the Sirens are the single line of defense within the city's entrance, only fools would not be deterred by the great walls which surround the Island.

FLIP

Hey, Sarah. That's us!

FATHER MINNOW

Quickly, the entrance is approaching.

*(They finish knotting the rope.)*

No matter what you hear you must fight the urge to free yourself. We will be here to detain you.

FLIP

Oh, wait what about us?

*(He covers his ears, HANNAH laughs at him.)*

FATHER MINNOW

The songs of the Sirens fall deaf upon Human ears. They are only able to lure those with a point to their ears into the depths of the river.

FLIP

Oh...

*(He looks to SARAH.)*

You're gonna do great.

*(A thumbs up. SARAH rolls her eyes.)*

FATHER MINNOW

Hannah, get below deck.

*(HANNAH goes inside the Captain's Cabin.)*

Ready?

*(All signal they're ready.)*

*(The ship turns into the ENTRANCE TO THE CITY: A vast, dark crystallizing cavern within the wall.)*

*(THE SIRENS appear, beautiful aquatic creatures with fins and gills, singing THE SONG OF THE SIRENS, a beautiful harmony. All look on.)*

FLIP

Wow. Look at them all. They're beautiful.

*(A few FEMALE SIRENS wave to FLIP flirtatiously, urging him to come down and join them. FLIP waves back bashfully.)*

*(A MALE siren appears, waving to MOTHER MINNOW. She waves back flirtatiously.)*

MOTHER MINNOW

Hello, again.

*(FATHER MINNOW rolls his eyes.)*

*(SARAH begins fighting against the ropes, allured by the song, FLIP takes notice.)*



FLIP

Um, guys?

*(SARAH is pushing against the ropes as hard as she can. A SIREN boards the ship in the shape of AVE FEMINA. She begins cutting through the rope.)*

Sarah!

*(FLIP runs at THE SIREN/AVE FEMINA and is knocked back by one powerful blow. In a moment he's on his feet hurling himself back at her, THE FABLE drawn. A quick battle ensues, during which SARAH frees herself and begins heading for the edge of the vessel. FLIP is doing all that is in his power to keep her from going over the edge but THE SIREN/AVE FEMINA is strong. THE FABLE is knocked out of his hand. FATHER MINNOW appears, THE BUCCANEER, an ancient handgun, in his hand.)*

FATHER MINNOW

FLIP!

*(He flings it to FLIP who is unable to catch it. SARAH flies over the edge of the ship, caught by FLIP'S hand. FLIP is stuck against the railing of the ship, clinging to SARAH, THE SIREN/AVE FEMINA towering over him. THE SIREN/AVE FEMINA slices FLIP across the middle with her claws, she bares her teeth.)*

THE SIREN/AVE FEMINA  
GIVE ME THAT ELF.

FLIP

Find your own, I got this one fair  
and square.

*(A swift kick sends THE*

*SIREN/AVĒ FEMINA back. She smiles, poised to pounce. FLIP winces, accepting fate. Suddenly a bullet rips through THE SIREN/AVĒ FEMINA'S chest sending her stumbling then falling off the side of the boat. Behind her, holding THE BUCCANEER, smoke pillowing out of its barrel, is HANNAH MINNOW. FLIP hoists SARAH back onto the boat.)*

FLIP

*(To HANNAH:)*

Nice shot.

*(MOTHER MINNOW takes THE BUCCANEER and smacks HANNAH'S hand. She hands it to FATHER MINNOW who hands it to FLIP.)*

FATHER MINNOW

Hold onto that, you might need it.

*(FLIP nods, and holsters the gun onto his leg.)*

SARAH

You... You saved me.

*(She gives FLIP a big hug.)*

FLIP

Uh... Now we're even.

*(SARAH pulls away, still holding onto FLIP.)*

SARAH

That Siren... What did she look like to you?

*(FLIP thinks very quickly.)*

FLIP

Uh, just a regular old Siren to me. Right, guys?

*(The others mumble the same.)*

FLIP (CONT'D)

Why? They supposed to take the  
shape of someone you love, right?

FATHER MINNOW

They call upon Aphrodite's Power to  
appear as the most beautiful thing  
you can imagine.

*(SARAH thinks.)*

SARAH

Funny. Looked just like a regular  
Siren to me.

*(She moves to the other part  
of the deck hurriedly.)*

FLIP

*(To the others:)*

Thanks.

MOTHER MINNOW

Of course. She'll tell you when  
she's ready.

*(FLIP smiles.)*

SARAH

Oh my...

*(All turn. The HARBOR OF THE  
CITY has been created.)*

FATHER MINNOW

Your final destination.

*(He anchors the ship.)*

FLIP

Thanks for the ride.

MOTHER MINNOW

*(Pinching his cheek.)*

Any time, our little hero.

*(SARAH wanders over.)*

FATHER MINNOW

I hope you find whatever you're  
looking for.

SARAH

Thank you. I hope you and your family enjoy your new lives in The City.

FATHER MINNOW

Oh there's plenty of time to get there. Keep showing people what it means to be different from those that came before you.

SARAH

I will. Keep taking chances on strangers.

FATHER MINNOW

Don't bet on it.

*(A wink. FLIP kneels in front of HANNAH.)*

FLIP

You really saved my ass back there.

HANNAH MINNOW

I know.

FLIP

You're pretty tough for a nine year old.

HANNAH MINNOW

I'm ten.

FLIP

Same difference. Look, I want you to hold onto this for me.

*(He hands her a slingshot.)*

It belonged to someone who was tough, kind of like you. He slew a Goblin King with it once, so it holds a lot of power. I can trust you'll only use it for good?

*(She takes it carefully.)*

HANNAH MINNOW

Was he an adventurer, too?

FLIP

The very same.

HANNAH MINNOW

Does this make me an adventurer,  
too?

FLIP

Do you want to be an adventurer?

*(She looks to her parents,  
then back to FLIP.)*

HANNAH MINNOW

*(Quietly:)*

Yes.

FLIP

Then yes, you're an adventurer,  
just like me.

*(She gives him a big hug.)*

HANNAH MINNOW

Goodbye, Flip. You were a pretty  
good first friend.

FLIP

Thanks, Hannah. You, too.

*(He stands.)*

MOTHER MINNOW

You're good with children.

FATHER MINNOW

Don't give the boy any ideas.

*(FLIP grabs a rogue rope.)*

FLIP

Thank you once again.

*(SARAH grabs a rope as well.)*

SARAH

Many good 'ventures to you!

*(All wave. SARAH and FLIP  
swing off the boat, onto the  
dock of THE HARBOR. They run  
towards THE CITY as fast as  
they can. FATHER MINNOW,  
MOTHER MINNOW, and HANNAH walk  
towards the edge of the boat.)*

FATHER MINNOW

And many good 'ventures to you,  
too.

MOTHER MINNOW

They're going to change the world,  
aren't they?

FATHER MINNOW

Oh, yes. I knew it from the moment  
they crashed on *The Tabellarium*.

HANNAH MINNOW

Me, too.

FATHER MINNOW

Of course you did, child.

*(He takes her by the hand.)*

Come, let's fix us some supper and  
wait for what's next to come.

*(The three EXIT.)*

*END SCENE.*

SCENE 5

THE CITY.

*(THE CITY looks and operates like the inside of a clock. Smoke blows all over the street, masses of people, all in their finest blacks, squeeze through the streets in almost choreographed patterns. FLIP and SARAH run in through the crowds, their loud, colorful adventure clothing popping out amongst the muted blacks of the city people, warranting quite a few strange glances.)*

FLIP

Okay. We're here.

*(A moment.)*

Now what?

*(They look around.)*

SARAH

I, um, I hadn't thought quite that far ahead. Have you any ideas?

*(FLIP has found A MUSICIAN he is enjoying listening to.)*

FLIP

Nothing yet. Check this out!

*(THE MUSICIAN kicks his spare change cup towards FLIP. FLIP gestures with his empty hands. THE MUSICIAN stops playing, picks up his change cup, and storms away angrily.)*

Never mind. What's the first stop?

*(They spot a sign which reads NEW TO THE CITY: MAKE THIS YOUR FIRST STOP. They shrug and walk over to a little information booth with an ANIMATRONIC VENDOR. A small, dinky song plays.)*

ANIMATRONIC VENDOR  
HELLO THERE AND WELCOME TO THE CITY  
OF NEO *\*STATIC\** WE HOPE YOU ENJOY  
YOUR VISIT IN THIS SAFE HAVEN FROM  
ALL THINGS GHOUL-GOBLIN, ELVIN OR  
EVIL! BE SURE TO CHECK US OUT AT...

*(The ANIMATRONIC VENDOR shuts  
down.)*

FLIP  
It says we've got to put in five  
gold pieces.

SARAH  
Come on, we--

*(OFFICER SPOTSHOT rides up on  
a small MOTORBIKE.)*

OFFICER SPOTSHOT  
HALT. You, trespassers. State your  
business.

FLIP  
Chill, dude. It's me. Flippicus the  
Fabled.

*(Everyone stops in their  
tracks.)*

CITY DWELLER  
IT'S HE! FLIPPICUS THE DESTROYER!

FLIP  
Well, that's new. Come on, let's  
just keep moving, there's got to be  
someone who can get me home.

*(A sharp pain cuts through  
FLIP, sending him to the  
floor. SARAH kneels next to  
FLIP, eyeing the OFFICER.)*

SARAH  
Come on, Flip. Please not now, we  
have to go.

FLIP  
Sarah, it's so cold.

*(The Officer seizes them.)*



OFFICER SPOTSHOT  
 Stop in the name of the law. You  
 two are held in containment by the  
 authority of the police association  
 of Neo--

*(A magnificent screech across  
 the world of EBO-RACŪM NOVŪM  
 cuts him off. Everyone in the  
 street stops to look up as to  
 where the terrifying screech  
 came from.)*

*(In THE ELDER'S STUDY:)*

THE ELDER

*(To SOCKEYE:)*

Does that mean someone's ready?

THE AUTHOR

It better happen soon, I've only  
 got so many more pages.

THE ELDER

Come on, little one. Off you go.

*(SOCKEYE crawls off of THE  
 ELDER'S shoulder and on to the  
 table.)*

Good boy, Sockeye. Now go get him.

*(Back in The City:)*

OFFICER SPOTSHOT  
 What in the world was...

*(SARAH gives OFFICER SPOTSHOT  
 the slip, dragging FLIP close  
 behind.)*

HEY! Halt in the name of--

*(SCREECH/CRASH. A 100-ft tall  
 SOCKEYE THE DRAGON comes  
 careening through a building  
 sending rubble flying  
 everywhere.)*

FLIP

No way...

*(All take of running, mass  
 hysteria ensues through the*

*city, SOCKEYE levels buildings, chasing after SARAH and FLIP, FLIP shakes off his momentary lapse and begins running alongside SARAH.)*

FLIP

Any ideas, Sar?

SARAH

Just one. Run until we think of something else.

FLIP

Great call.

*(OFFICER SPOTSHOT catches up.)*

OFFICER SPOTSHOT

*(Drawing his SIDEARM:)*

He's going after the outsiders. Get them!

FLIP

*(Drawing the BUCCANEER:)*

Get lost!

SARAH

Get down!

*(They take refuge under some rubble dodging a fiery blast from SOCKEYE.)*

FLIP

That was close.

*(SARAH nods, FLIP spots SPOTSHOT'S MOTORBIKE.)*

Come with me.

*(He jumps on the MOTORBIKE, slinging SARAH over the back.)*

SARAH

Do you know how to ride this thing?

FLIP

Of course! How do you think I get to work everyday?

(He revs it up.)

SARAH

Oh dear God.

*(FLIP guns it, narrowly missing a shot from OFFICER SPOTSHOT. The two ride through the city streets dodging fire and pedestrians. A close shot of fire sends the bike toppling and FLIP and SARAH rolling offstage before a blast of fire can incinerate them. It blasts directly forward, over the top of their heads and off the stage into the audience. The two climb back onstage, unsure what to do.)*

FLIP

Why does it want me so bad?

SARAH

How do you know it wants you?

*(FLIP looks at the death and destruction.)*

FLIP

Call it an educated guess.

SARAH

You look for a way home, I'll look for a way to slay the dragon. Meet back here, okay?

FLIP

Good idea.

*(FLIP turns to go. SARAH grabs him.)*

SARAH

Flip, this isn't goodbye, is it?

FLIP

Of course not.

*(He gives the ELVISH SALUTE SARAH greeted him with at their first meeting.)*

FLIP (CONT'D)  
You'll see me again.

*(SARAH maneuvers through the massacred city. She helps people out of the street.)*

HANNAH MINNOW  
Sarah?

*(SARAH turns to find a small body, crushed under the debris of a building. She rushes to HANNAH's side.)*

SARAH  
Oh no, Hannah. It's going to be alright. Where are your parents--

HANNAH MINNOW  
Where's Flip?

*(SARAH looks around.)*

SARAH  
He's fighting the dragon.

HANNAH MINNOW  
Good. When you see him, will you tell him I helped?

*(She weakly hands over the SLINGSHOT.)*

I wanted to be an adventurer, like you two.

*(SARAH places the SLINGSHOT back in her palm.)*

SARAH  
You hold onto that. You're going to need it, okay?

HANNAH MINNOW  
Okay...

*(she smiles weakly.)*

SARAH  
Come on, Hannah. I need you to help me. I'm going to lift this off of you but you need to push, alright?

*(HANNAH nods her head no.)*

Okay, come on? One, two, three...

*(SARAH begins trying to pull up the rubble, but it's too heavy.)*

*(Giving up:)*

Dammit!

HANNAH MINNOW

It's okay. Without you and Flip, I wouldn't have made it off the boat. And now, I got to see The City. It's so beautiful, isn't it?

*(SARAH looks at the destruction, then at HANNAH'S small face. She nods, holding back tears.)*

Thank you, Sarah. I've always thought you were a nice Elf.

*(HANNAH dies.)*

*(SARAH rests her head upon HANNAH'S body and cries in the midst of the destruction.)*

*(FLIP returns.)*

FLIP

Sarah, Sarah I--

*(He spies HANNAH'S body.)*

Is she...

*(SARAH nods.)*

Oh no. No, no... No one is supposed to actually die.

SARAH

Flip, we must find the way to slay the dragon.

FLIP

NO! You do it. I don't want to be here anymore. You said we could get to the city and then I'd get to go home. That's what you said!

SARAH

I know...

FLIP

And now someone is dead! Someone who didn't do anything wrong. Someone who wanted to be like us. I don't want to have anything to do with this. I'm not fighting a dragon. I'm leaving this stupid city.

SARAH

Save these people! If you leave they will die. I will die.

*(ROWAN appears in the ruined CITY but no one can see him.)*

ROWAN

Don't let her die like me.

FLIP

*(To SARAH:)*

What did you say?

SARAH

I said if you leave, we will die.

ROWAN

I didn't want to die!

FLIP

*(To SARAH:)*

STOP SAYING THAT!

*(FLIP covers his ears and mutters "stop" during the proceeding.)*

SARAH

What?

THE ELDER

Oh no.

THE AUTHOR

He won't be making it, will he?

SARAH

You can't stop just because it gets harder!

ROWAN  
I could've survived.

SARAH  
We need to survive.

ROWAN  
You should've been there for me.

THE ELDER  
Follow you destiny.

SARAH  
We can be there for them. Hannah  
doesn't have to die for nothing.

ROWAN  
I died for nothing.

THE AUTHOR  
What is his story if he gives up  
now?

THE ELDER  
Nothing.

SARAH  
Flip, talk to me!

ROWAN  
I didn't die to be a side quest in  
your story.

THE ELDER  
Follow your quest.

SARAH  
We weren't there when she needed  
us. Be there now for me.

ROWAN  
Why weren't you there for me? I  
asked for your help.

SARAH  
It's your turn to help.

THE ELDER  
We've done all we can to help.

THE AUTHOR  
He's on his own now.

SARAH

Don't leave me on my own now.

ROWAN

See what it feels like to be left on your own? It hurts!

SARAH

We can stop more people from getting hurt.

ROWAN

You couldn't stop me from getting hurt. Why didn't you help me when I showed you my cuts, why didn't you help me that day I lifted my shirt up.

SARAH

You were the one to whom she looked up.

FLIP

SHUT THE FUCK UP!

THE ELDER

ENOUGH!

*(Time freezes. Everyone stops except for FLIP, THE ELDER AND THE AUTHOR. A staircase descends from THE ELDER'S STUDY.)*

Your bickering drives me mad. Come, Flippicus. It's time we had a talk.

FLIP

You... You're that old guy from the store.

*(He looks around.)*

What is this?

*(He looks over to the typewriter. He walks over, THE AUTHOR eyeing him nervously. FLIP begins reading:)*

FLIP

*(Reading:)*

*Flippicus awoke that morning on the bank. Rowan of the Halflings and*

(MORE)



*Sarah of the Elves were gone. As Sarah returned she had no memory of her adventures with Rowan. In fact, she would never remember him again.*

*(He flips through a few more pages.)*

You're writing down everything we've done.

THE AUTHOR

It's my job. I record the Legends.

THE ELDER

And I make them.  
Would you like to know why you're here, Phillip?

FLIP

I thought it was Flippicus here?

THE ELDER

You have a great many names, don't you, son?

*(He sits, lights his pipe.)*

You are the fabled Flippicus of Ebo-Racūm Novūm, yes. But at home, you are Phillip, no? And to those you are closest to, you are Flip. But you are still the same person. One destined for greatness who chooses to ignore that path. Because you are dull? Perhaps. Lazy? That may be more so. But above all, because you are not aware of all you can accomplish.

FLIP

But did you hear Rowan? I--

THE ELDER

Your friend is angry. He will, too, come around. He is upset that he was a sacrifice.

FLIP

No. Rowan didn't die for that reason. He died because he felt he let down those he held closest. He didn't die to teach me a lesson and he definitely didn't die so your

(MORE)

FLIP (CONT'D)

Gandalf-lookin' ass could say "told you so." Rowan was more than just a part of my story.

THE ELDER

Who said this was your story?

FLIP

If it's not mine, then who...

*(They look down onto the World. A single light up on SARAH.)*

THE ELDER

You have your own world. Your own life. Lessons you must learn and things you must encounter.

FLIP

And Sarah's world lies here.

THE ELDER

Yes.

*(He glances to THE AUTHOR. The AUTHOR nods.)*

There's someone who would like to share something with you.

*(He reveals ROWAN.)*

ROWAN

Hey, Flip.

FLIP

Rowan!

THE ELDER

Hush. Let him speak.

ROWAN

See, Flip, the only person who is going to take control of your life is you. And even when it's scary, even when you're not entirely sure what you're working towards, you can never stop. You hear me? Because the moment you stop, you let down those you hold closest. Do you understand?

FLIP

I... I guess.

ROWAN

And just because you get where you've always been meaning to go doesn't mean that the road stops there. Life continues past graduation, past college. It doesn't magically fix itself, those problems you've left behind follow you. You can't just run away from these things.

FLIP

Rowan. I'm sorry.

ROWAN

I know, dude.

*(DING! The typewriter hits the end of it's reel.)*

*(ROWAN disappears.)*

THE AUTHOR

It's finished.

*(FLIP reaches for the page but is too slow. THE ELDER snags it.)*

FLIP

What's it say?

THE ELDER

You already know.

*(A moment.)*

FLIP

All I wanted was to go home.

THE ELDER

And I wish that, too, was an option. It's in your hands now, Flip. The path has been written. Will you follow it as it reads, or will you begin writing your own legends, too?

*(A moment. FLIP smiles.)*

FLIP

I don't want to do nothing with my  
life. I want to be something, I  
want to be someone. I want to be  
**LEGENDARY.**

*(A blinding light engulfs the  
entire stage.)*

*(BLACKOUT. The sound of  
battle. SOCKEYE screeches.  
Flames. Cheers and cries.)*

FLIP (OFFSTAGE)

I've got him looking over this way,  
Sarah. Do it!

SARAH (OFFSTAGE)

Got it!

*(The sound of a sword plunging  
into SOCKEYE. A screech.  
Lights up on a dead SOCKEYE  
and FLIP and SARAH standing  
proudly. Citizens slowly come  
out from hiding and flock to  
the heroes.)*

CITY DWELLER

She did it. She sent the dragon  
away.

CITY WOMAN

She saved us. The Elf saved us.

CITY DWELLER

And the Fabled one, too.

*(He looks to SARAH.)*

FLIP

Yes. Sarah the Fabled.

*(He hands her THE FABLE)*

*(To the crowd:)*

TO THE ELF!

CROWD

TO THE ELF!

*(LIGHTS DOWN as SARAH smiles.)*

THE ELDER

*(Reading:)*

Flippicus chooses to stay here and help Sarah slay the dragon, resolving to spend the rest of his days here in Ebo-Racūm Novūm before frostbite seizes his heart. He dies a hero.

*(To THE AUTHOR:)*

It's good, no?

THE AUTHOR

Eh, you just tell 'em well. I just put the words on the page.

THE ELDER

Spoken like a true wordsmith.

*END SCENE.*

EPILOGUE

SOCKEYE'S.

*(The stage is empty. FLIP is in the lock in. The store is dim with sunlight just now beating through the windows.)*

MYLEI (O.S.)

I've got it, Joe. Pay the locksmith.

*(Aside:)*

Flip, Joe is going to kill you.

*(She goes about her opening duties. Setting chairs, tables, unlocking things. She reaches the LOCK-IN and peers inside.)*

Oh shit.

*(LIGHTS UP in THE ELDER'S STUDY. Below him the world slows down and falls into soft focus as MYLEI gets FLIP out of the freezer.)*

THE ELDER

Adventure chooses at a whim. It is not specific with the heroes it endows itself with. Adventure is not only reserved for kings. It is not left behind with those you held dear. It does not end when you've reached your goal. Adventure twists and turns and can be found inside the smallest heart. The largest mind, and the most unlikely individual. It could even be found within you.

*(He closes a large book. **LEGENDARY** is emblazoned across the front.)*

*(The shop conducts business below. SARAH, 18, no longer an Elf, ENTERS holding hands with a familiar girl. The girl points to a table and leaves*

to grab it. FLIP stands, recognizing her. SARAH notices him and they hold each other's gaze for a moment. She then lifts her hand in an Elvish Salute. FLIP smiles and does the same. Everyone in the restaurant is a human counterpart of their EBO-RACŪM NOVŪM character. The lights then dim to only SARAH, FLIP, and ROWAN who sits in the ELDER'S STUDY above.)

(Then BLACKOUT.)

**END OF SHOW**