

Light

Written by

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EXT. DIRT ROAD - MORNING

Morning dew coats rolling grass hills, turned to a gilded dust by the rising sun. Birds, breeze, bliss, and then the marching of feet, clanking armor, and trotting hooves.

An arm stretches towards the sun, its hand snapping into a fist, magically drinking in sunlight. A subdermal glow ignites within the hand, which belongs to-

LIAM, 40's, donning sparkling silver armor encrusted with rubies, topaz, and symbols of flame. His entire body has this fiery subdermal light, he holds no weapons, and is riding a horse. Clutching his back is his son, CAEL, 8, wearing chainmail too big for his small figure, a shield and sword strapped to him. He flinches as a distant bell tolls.

Around them are more horse riders, none of which are carrying weapons, and hundreds of SOLPHARIAN SOLDIERS with scattered red-orange banners. One of the riders is DECLAN, armored and glowing similarly to Liam and smiling slyly as the bell continues.

DECLAN

Oh, good. They'll be ready for us.
More fighting for you, ey Cael?
Sticking one at a time, well they
just won't know what hit them!

The others on horseback laugh haughtily, save for Liam.

LIAM

Some bloom a bit late, yeh? Perhaps
his first blood will ignite his
fire, ey boy?

CAEL

Yes, father...

DECLAN

Aw, don't worry lad, we'll make
sure your blade is red by mid day.

LIAM

AYE! These barbarians will be dead
before the second battalion
arrives! And you, boy, you'll have
it all figured out. NOW LET'S BURN
THEM!

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. BURNT VILLAGE - DAY

Liam's face is pale, bloody, and dead. There's a massive gouge in his shoulder, his breastplate cracked along the same line. The breeze plays with his hair.

LORCAN (O.S.)

And that one! Your swing nearly cut through his armor! Remember his pompous face? That fuckin' smile? He thought he could hunt us for sport, they all did! Look at 'em now...

LORCAN, 30s, winded, wearing scraps of leather over cloth and leaning on a bloody sword over SEAMUS, 50s, sitting and clutching a bleeding wound on his side, wearing the same ragtag armor pieces as Lorcan. Two axes and a bow lay beside him.

They are both taking cover behind a stone fireplace, the only part of the burnt house around them left standing. A few hundred yards away, Solpharian archers directed by Declan fire arrows from the crest of a hill at any moving body. Lorcan peaks over, but is immediately pulled back by Seamus.

SEAMUS

Dammit stay down! It's over for them, and me. And you don't have long either if you stay. Those who could have already saved themselves. Join them or die.

LORCAN

Wha... how can you say that!? You're a legend, I can't let you end here! And, and what about your family. You just giving up on Brigid? Little Aine???

SEAMUS

I gave my life so they could escape. And because I did, Aine will not grow to accept this...

Seamus flops his hand meekly, gesturing at the bodies of villagers and Solpharian soldiers littering the ground.

SEAMUS (CONT'D)

Waste. One day, you'll love someone enough to want to do the same.

Lorcan is about to give an incredulous reply when he spots something. Movement near Liam's body.

Cael crawls over burnt planks, finding his father. He collapses, his crying is mostly muffled by the wind, but it's enough for Seamus's face to drop. Even Lorcan senses his guilt, if only for a moment.

LORCAN

Oh, come on. Even a fool wouldn't bring their son to a battlefield. You did the kid a favor, I bet.

AIDEN

Better luck next time, ey?

Seamus breaks his stare and snaps to attention, groaning and leaning cautiously out of cover to see AIDEN, 20s, similar villager garb, hiding in the remains of another house, wounded and immobile, jousting at Cael.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Even the *almighty* Light couldn't save him... oh hey, look at that! One last lesson from him! Fuckin' Solpharian trash.

Aiden kicks smoldering debris at Cael, about thirty feet away. It strikes Liam. Lorcan stifles a laugh.

SEAMUS

Keep your fucking quiet, Aiden!

Aiden thinks twice and shuts up, but the damage is done. Cael, shaking as grief turns to rage, stands and draws his sword. The steel is still dry and clean. He staggers out from cover, towards Aiden.

SEAMUS (CONT'D)

Get out of here, boy. You hear me? It's not too late for you, you can still run!

The words wash right over Cael, who continues forward. Aiden coughs, spitting blood at Cael. Seamus's face contorts with dread, his eyes watering.

SEAMUS (CONT'D)

No, no please kid. It'll only make it worse, trust me... TRUST ME!

Cael hears only a fierce wind rushing by his ears, accompanied with his heartbeat. A murderous rage burns in his eyes. He picks up his pace. Seamus picks up his bow and nocks an arrow, tears streaming down his face. He aims.

LORCAN
 Sorry, kid. Had your chance.

Cael stumbles into a half-run, closing the distance between him and Aiden, his sword raised to kill-

THUNK

Cael stops, and with a blink, the rage is replaced with sadness and confusion once again. The pounding in his ears washes away...

Aiden slides down, an arrow through his eye.

A beat of silence as Cael stands out in the open, dazed.

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| LORCAN (CONT'D) | DECLAN (O.S.) |
| Why did you-- | --THERE! |

A hail of arrows rain down on Cael. One strikes his shoulder. He falls, but scrambles to get back up again.

DECLAN (CONT'D)
 Again!

SEAMUS
 They're gonna kill their own kid!

LORCAN
 That's what you're concerned about?
 Not- hey!

With a pained shout, Seamus gives his all to stand and runs to Cael, tackling him as more arrows fly over them. He shoves himself to his feet, pulling Cael with him, and drags the both of them back towards Lorcan. He catches a couple arrows in the back, but focuses on Cael, pushing him behind cover.

SEAMUS
 Here! You take him! Raise him better!

LORCAN
 Why the fuck would I want-

Seamus looks him in the eye, and an understanding washes over Lorcan. Seamus's side leaks blood as he faces the hill. Lorcan grabs Cael by the arm aggressively.

SEAMUS
 Good luck.

Seamus bursts out from cover once again, yelling and waving his axes.

He draws the archers' fire as Lorcan runs off with Cael into the woods. Cael cries and beats helplessly against Lorcan. Then with a final push, he extends his hand towards the sun, grasping for Light. He still can't do it, and the forest canopy quickly cuts off the sunlight.

TITLE CARD: **LIGHT**