



VISIONARIES

MINI-SERIES

EPISODE II

THE DARK HAND OF TREACHERY

FINAL

(REVISED 4/3/87)

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(TMS-REVISED March 27, 1987)
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EPISODE 2

DARK HAND OF TREACHERY

BEGIN ACT I

EXT. A CRAGGY-CLIFF AREA

Arzon comes from a cracked and shattered land. The world looks like it is made of cracked pottery. In order to get from one place to the other, you must jump over narrow, but extremely deep cracks.

To make things more sinister, there are mesas in this area which loom over travelers like death.

Occasionally, Arzon uses his Power Staff as kind of a pole vault.

VIRULINA
(disguising her voice)
Help! Help!

ARZON

looks around, and sees --

A CONICAL HAT

(often found on princesses in fantasy realms) bobbing up and down. Obviously, it belongs to a woman who has fallen into one of the cracks.

ARZON

runs, or vaults, towards the woman.

ARZON
(out loud)
Hold tight.

When he reaches -

THE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS

is wedged at the bottom of an eight foot crevasse and is jumping up and down..

ARZON
(to himself)
And it is a fair maiden indeed.

ARZON AND THE WOMAN

He reaches down and pulls her out. They exchange glances. She is very beautiful and he is much taken with her. He even likes the way she bats her eyes when she talks.

THE DAMSEL
Never before have I met such
a strong knight.

ARZON
I assure you, Madam, it was
but a petty feat.

THE DAMSEL
Why does your Staff glow so brightly?

She says, pointing to -

ARZON'S POWER STAFF

where the BRAINMAN kind of watches.

ARZON
Why it is charged with great magical power.

THE DAMSEL
laughs at him.

DAMSEL
You do have a fanciful imagination.
How old are you?

ARZON
is annoyed.

ARZON
I will prove it to you.
(to the Power Staff)
A whim, thought, and more is sought,
awake, my mind, thy will be wrought!
A VOICE
Address me as "Bearer of knowledge."

ARZON
Very well. "Bearer of knowledge", tell
me all you know of this fair maiden.

THE POWER STAFF

Glow and the tedious and somewhat pompous "Bearer of
Knowledge" starts moving around.

BEARER
Do not waste my power on such trivial
antics.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE BEARER, DAMSEL AND ARZON

Arzon is trying to impress this fair lass.

ARZON

I will use your power for whatever I see fit. What do you know of this fair maiden?

THE BEARER

looks down at her.

BEARER OF KNOWLEDGE

Her hair is dark...

WOMAN

He is truly brilliant.

BEARER OF KNOWLEDGE

She is five feet-nine inches tall -

ARZON

Tell me her name and tell me of her past.

THE BEARER OF KNOWLEDGE

(takes a moment to process this)

It seems that the young woman is the evil knight Virulina.

ARZON

shakes his head and kind of turns to the Power Staff so he can not see as

ARZON

That's absurd.

THE DAMSEL

tears away a mask, and throws off her concealing cloak to reveal her armor. It is, indeed Virulina. She cracks him with her Saw-tooth sword.

ARZON

tumbles to the ground, jumps up and pulls his laser dagger.

THE BEARER

looks down dispassionately.

BEARER
Will that be all?

ARZON AND VIRULINA

exchange terrible blows.

ARZON
Yes, that will be all.

THE FIGHT

Virulina keeps him busy while -

CINDARR (O.S.)
(AS A WARCRY)
Darkling Lords, Attack!

Cindarr, Mortdredd and Lexor Darkling Lords jump INTO SHOT
from --

A HIGH MESA

above them.

THE BATTLE

Arzon puts up a good fight - knocking each of the Darkling
lords back, and precariously close to the precipices. (We
can have some slapstick fun with this).

But, outnumbered six to one, he turns and -

- jumps over a couple cracks, the Darkling Lords hot on his
tail.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE MESAS AHEAD

But beware, not far ahead of him, the last three Darkling
Lords: Darkstorm, Cravex and Reekon jump out from behind
mesas to catch him.

THE CHASE

Arzon runs nimbly and gracefully over the mesas, but --

REEKON

is on his tail.

THE FIRST TRANSFORMATION

As he is about to be caught, Arzon turns into the Eagle and FLIES away.

THE FLIGHT

Under normal circumstances, he might be able to make it, but -

LEXOR

throws his strange hook, which -

ON ARZON'S EAGLE

- snags his talon for just long enough that -

CRAVEX

changes into his Phylot Mode and -

ARZON AND CRAVEX IN THE AIR

- brings him down.

ON THE GROUND

ARZON changes back to human form, but before he can act, his Power Staff is stripped from him.

(*RULE: The Knights can not activate their Power Staves unless they are touching them.)

VIRULINA

looks down on him with an evil smile.

VIRULINA
So easily was the naive little bird
snared.

(nasty laugh)

MORTDREDD

steps over, bows and hands Darkstorm Arzon's Power Staff.

MORTDREDD

Here, your highness and lord of the realm, worthy of a thousand honors and salutations, is the Power Staff.

DARKSTORM

Ah, and it will serve me well.

VIRULINA

is not pleased.

VIRULINA

Darkstorm! Our arrangement, in case you have forgotten, is that I get the Power Staff in exchange for luring him into the ambush.

DARKSTORM

looks puzzled.

DARKSTORM

I don't remember any such arrangement. Do you, Mortdredd?

MORTDREDD

Of course not, exulted one.

VIRULINA

steps away in a huff.

VIRULINA

Liar. You will rue this day!

ON ARZON

though he is being chained, is amused.

ARZON

You expected him to keep his word and you call ME naive.
(laughs)

THE DARKLING LORDS

stand in a circle, except Virulina, who walks into the distance.

DARKSTORM

Reekon and Mortdredd, I suspect I will have a shortage of sturdy shackles, manacles and prison -

(MORE)

. DARKSTORM (CONT'D)
chains. Scour the junk yards for
strong metals.
The rest of you must return with me to
the war room.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A JUNK YARD

Reekon and Mortdredd forage through the wreckage.

REEKON
If we had magical Power Staffs, we would
not have been relegated to this degrading
labor.

MORTDREDD
Any work is exalted as long as it is done
in the name of the great Darkstorm

REEKON
(GRUNTS)
Were you born to be a boot-licker, or did
you pick up the trade in your early
manhood?...

Mortdredd whips out his weapon.

MORTDREDD
You have insulted Darkstorm and me, his Minister
of Loyalty. I must avenge his name.

Reekon whir^vs around and draws his weapon.

REEKON
Put away your weapon and do not
embarrass yourself.

THEIR DUEL

Mortdredd attacks...

MORTDREDD
No- you must pay the penalty for
speaking against Darkstorm.

REEKON

parries his first blow, and sends him scuttling towards -

A SKY CLAW

which is covered with wreckage. When Reekon hits the Sky
Claw, it lights up, and the ENGINES ROAR.

REEKON

It sounds like a motor.

MORTDREDD

That is impossible. Motors aren't supposed to work anymore.

ANGLE ON THE SKY-CLAW'S JET

it revs away.

REEKON

Then, what are we seeing?

MORTDREDD

It must be a hallucination.

REEKON

Let's see if it flies.

Then he hops in.

MORTDREDD

does likewise.

ON THE SKY CLAW

Suddenly, the holograms light up and --

REEKON

Brace yourself.

-- it flies beautifully.

THE SKY CLAW

whips around.

MORTDREDD

Do you think we have the ability to infuse other vehicles with magic? *

REEKON

Definitely! This must be the great power Merklynn promised us. *

MORTDREDD

We must go to Darkstorm's castle immediately.

REEKON

He's gonna have to pay big for my services.

MORTDREDD

(disparaging)
Wretched Mercenary!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DARKSTORM'S CASTLE (THE THRONE ROOM)

Darkstorm, Lexor, Cindarr and Cravex stand over a 3 Dimensional Map of PRYSMOS. (Insert map design.) They are obviously in some kind of a planning session.

DARKSTORM

When Cryotek and Witter Quick have fallen -

He tips over small representations of the Spectral Knights.

DARKSTORM (CONT'D)

- we will have all of the magic we will need to assault New Valarak.

Suddenly they hear a LOUD ROAR and dive under the map table.

THE WALL

crashes open, and the Sky Claw sticks through it.

MORTDREDD (O.S.)

You erratic idiot.

DARKSTORM

crawls out from under the table and sees -

MORTDREDD AND REEKON

emerging from the Sky Claw, when they get out -- the motor goes off and the holograms go dark.

DARKSTORM

walks over to the Sky Claw, which is amazingly undamaged..

DARKSTORM

Let me drive it myself.

He gets in. The ENGINE STARTS, but the Holograms do not light up.

DARKSTORM

I am getting disappointing results.
The engine works, but what happened to the magic.

Steps over, touches the vehicle and it goes on.

REEKON

It appears that any Visionary can pilot a vehicle, but Mortdredd, and I are your only knights who can breath magic into the metal.

MORTDREDD

You see, worthy master, I will
be quite valuable to you afterall.

REEKON (to himself)

- Or to Leoric -- if he pays better

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE ROAD TO WITTER QUICK'S KINGDOM

Witter Quick dashes down a desert road at amazing speed.
Suddenly, what looks like a bird on fire flies over his
shoulder and crashes on the ground in front of him.

WITTER QUICK'S POV - THE SKY CLAW

Looking up, he sees the Sky Claw bearing down on him.

CLOSE ON THE SKY CLAW

Mortdredd drives and Lexor is seated in the back firing
FIRESHRIKES

WITTER QUICK

runs faster, but -

THE SKY CLAW

gains on him firing FIRESHRIKES.

WITTER QUICK - RUNNING

changes into human form and shouts --

WITTER QUICK

Sheathe these feet in the driving gale, make
swift these legs, o'er land I sail!

ANOTHER ANGLE

-- and suddenly, we become aware of the fact that the outer
edge of physics and magic are somewhat similar. There is a
blast of light. Witter Quick strobes, and in a flash is
gone - leaving -

THE SKY CLAW

in his flash trail.

CUT TO:

EXT. WITTER QUICK'S VELDT KINGDOM

There's another blast of light and a materialization and Witter Quick, stops breathless, at the gate to his own city. As this is desert area, the City Might well be dull, dun colored stuff with bright fabric over the top kind of like tents or something.

GUARDS

Hail Prince Witter Quick!

Before his men can lower the drawbridge, however --

CRAVEX

who knew where he would run to, rises from the moat and runs at him.

CRAVEX

No good having light speed if we know your destination.

WITTER QUICK

looks up at the Power Staff. There's nothing in it.

WITTER QUICK

Sheathe these feet in the driving gale, make swift these legs, o'er land I sail...Uh Oh! It flickers and dwindles, not activating.

He tries to flee --

ANOTHER ANGLE

-- and runs straight into --

REEKON

who has been hiding in his chameleon form in the tall grass. As Witter Quick is about to be caught he changes form and -- becomes THE CHEETAH and gallops away.

But his hope for escape is not long lived, for the Sky Claw
SCREAMS over the horizon.

ON WITTER QUICK

the Sky Claw GAINS INOT SHOT firing blasts, Witterquick
takes a hit and goes down, changing back to human form.
He starts to get back up, obviously still stunned, but
before he does, Reekon and Cravex leap on him and bind
him in chains.

DARKSTORM

is pleased.

DARKSTORM

Already two of the Spectral Knights
have fallen , and soon the rest shall
be in my grasp.

END ACT I

BEGIN ACT II

BEGIN ACT II #

FADE IN:

EXT. THE COURTYARD OF DARKSTORM'S CASTLE - DAY

The boot-licking Mortdredd and the more independent Reekon stand before the vehicle they have rounded up to his lord and king, Darkstorm. It is of course the Dagger Assault.

MORTDREDD

Yes, my lord, you will truly look
the king, riding in the Dagger Assault. *

Darkstorm walks past the two vehicles, like a guy checking out cars he can't afford at a lot.

REEKON

And don't worry the payments will
be low.

MORTDREDD

There shall be no payments, Darkstorm
is supreme ruler of all he surveys.

DARKSTORM

The Dagger Assault is a truly remarkable
vehicle. I particularly like the magical dungeon! *

ANGLE

showing the Dagger Assault's magical dungeon (formerly
known as the torture chamber) *

(pause)

And I have just the mission
for it.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GLACIUM (THE EMPIRE OF ICE)

Cryotek rides atop the back of something that looks like a
Siberian Tiger. This far north, the sky is dark blue,
and it's hard to see much more than silhouettes.

HIGH ANGLE - SOMEBODY'S POV

Approaching what appears to be an Ice Castle, he takes several deep breaths, letting his frosty breath dissipate in the cold air.

CRYOTEK
(several deep breaths)

ANOTHER ANGLE

Suddenly, a figure jumps down on him from above, lands on him and knocks him into the slushy ground.

CRYOTEK

starts to wrestle with the figure, but before crushing her with his amazing strength, he realizes it is Galadria.

GALADRIA
I am no match for your brutish force.

CRYOTEK
Galadria! I should have known.
Nobody else could have taken me
by such complete surprise.

They both stand up, talking. It may well be that there's more than a casual friendship going on here.

GALADRIA
I wanted to see you one more time
before returning to Androsia.

CRYOTEK
You need not worry, you will see me
many more times. *

But the fun isn't going to last long...

Without warning they hear a sinister WHISTLING SOUND.

THEIR POV - A DAGGAR DART

Cravex, flying on the Dagger Dart (also known as the detachable scout flier) fired off of the Dagger Assault vehicle streaks down toward them carrying a lance, about to skewer Cryotek... *

CRYOTEK

ducks at the precise moment, and the Daggar Dart whirls around again kind of like a paper airplane.

This time, Cryotek stands, dodges the lance, and -

GALADRIA

nails Cravex from the other side --

ON CRAVEX - TRACKING

-- sending him flying into a snow bank.

GALADRIA AND CRYOTEK

shake hands in a manner that suggests esprit d' corps more even than their own close personal relationship.

CRYOTEK

Good work, Galadria.

GALADRIA

Wouldn't like to see my favorite knight skewered.

But their hearty self-congratulations is shattered by A LOUD, ENGINE ROAR.

CRYOTEK

turns to see -

CRYOTEK'S POV - THE DAGGAR ASSAULT VEHICLE

-- a full-scale onslaught from the Darkling Lords in the Daggar Assault Vehicle.

ON CRYOTEK AND GALADRIA

flaming fireballs miss them wildly, and melt whole glaciers.

ON DARKSTORM AND VIRULINA

he sits in the command spot, she stands next to him.

VIRULINA

If you cheat me out of a Power Staff again, I will be your enemy forever.

DARKSTORM

(distracted)

I couldn't have that.

(shouting to men)

Stop firing the fireballs. I want them captured, not incinerated.

ON THE DAGGAR DART

it races INTO SHOT, about to strafe Cryotek.

CRYOTEK

15

Three suns aligned, pour forth
their light and fill the archer's
bow with might!

*
**

CRYOTEK'S POWER STAFF

suddenly comes to life. The Magic Bowman appears.

CRYOTEK

Destroy their vehicle.

He fires the arrow.

ON THE DAGGAR DART

Darkstorm sees the arrow coming.

DARKSTORM

Lexor, use your power of invulnerability!

LEXOR AND HIS POWER STAFF - TRACKING

LEXOR

The arrows turn, the swords repel, may
nothing pierce this mortal shell!

THE DAGGAR DART

is suddenly covered in the protective crystals.

The Arrow hits them, shattering the crystals.

GALADRIA

Their magic neutralized yours.

CRYOTEK

But I spent my only arrow.

THE BATTLE

the Daggar Assault Vehicle pulls up. All of the evil Lords
jump out, including Virulina and surround the two future
Spectral Knights.

GALADRIA

We're surrounded.

ON CRYOTEK AND GALADRIA

they line up back to back.

CRYOTEK

When I give the word, jump into
the ice hole, swim to New Valarak
and tell Leoric my fate.

ON THE ICE HOLE

Steam rises from a hole created by the fireball. Through the hole, we can see the ocean below.

THE FIGHT

The two good Knights fight valiantly, but the sheer numbers of their enemies shove them back.

Finally, when they are near the ice hole -

CRYOTEK
Run for it.

Galadria dashes towards the Ice Hole.

The Darkling Lords try to catch her, but --

- are startled as

CRYOTEK

turns into the polar bear, grabs Lexor and tosses him into a snow drift, and then does the same to Reekon.

DARKSTORM AND VIRULINA

the evil leader shouts to Virulina.

DARKSTORM
Stop her!!!

Virulina runs towards the Ice Hole -

EXT. UNDER WATER SAME TIME

We are about to see a pair of the most beautiful transitions we'll ever see.

GALADRIA

strikes the water in human form, and then changes into her DOLPHIN form and swims in the beautiful arctic undersea.

VIRULINA

dives in in human form, and moments later becomes a shark.

THE CHASE

As shark chases dolphin, we CUT BACK TO:

EXT. ABOVE THE GROUND - CRYOTEK'S BATTLE

Cryotek fights in Polar bear mode and keeps enemies at bay.

CRAVEX

looks at Cryotek.

CRAVEX

He can't hold his magical form
much longer.

**

CRYOTEK

lets out a mighty roar and -

CRYOTEK
(MIGHTY ROAR)

-- changes into a human again.

HIGH ANGLE - THE BATTLE

The Darkling Lords encircle Cryotek with balled chains which wrap around him, restraining his movement.

He swings his sword, and flails, but all is for naught.

THE STRUGGLE

ends, with Cryotek chucked into the Detention Cell of the Daggar Assault Vehicle!

CUT TO:

UNDER WATER - SAME TIME

There is an extremely interesting rock formation on the ocean floor. Maybe it can even be some kind of a futuristic wreck, if that wouldn't be gilding the lily. Virulina, in Shark Form circles around.

Suddenly, there's a burst of bubbles, and Galadria's dolphin appears and BUMPS her!

Virulina shoots upwards.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHERE DARKSTORM ET AL ARE - ABOVE THE WATER

Then, they hear a WATERY SOUND and look over as Virulina in Shark Mode pops out of the water, lands on the Ice and changes back to human form.

DARKSTORM

Your orders were to capture Galadria.
But it appears that you failed.

VIRULINA

isn't about to admit defeat as she stands up.

VIRULINA

Maybe I had her, but decided to let her go, because I don't trust you.

DARKSTORM

DARKSTORM

It is I who don't trust you now.
It would be madness to hand over a POWER STAFF to a shark who can not destroy a dolphin.

ON THE DARKLING LORDS

DARKLING LORDS
(THEY CHUCKLE)

ON VIRULINA

like before, she walks away.

VIRULINA

You will rue this day.

DARKSTORM

DARKSTORM

I grow tired of your hollow threats.
(to his men)
There is but one more battle to fight...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEW VALARAK

Guards man the battlements as we push in on a skyscraper that sits in the middle of New Valarak.

PRINCE LEORIC

And when we thought we were lost in the labyrinth -

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LEORIC'S THRONE ROOM - SAME TIME

Leoric sits at a round table surrounded by a number of his knights. Most of them are sitting, but some are playing darts in the corner. It is a much looser and more pleasant atmosphere than Darkstorm's castle.

Feryl and Ectar sit to his right and left respectively. The atmosphere is fun.

ECTAR

- Feryl started sniffing -
 (mimics him)
 - All we had to do was follow his
 nose to the Shrine.

Knights (laugh)
 ON A KNIGHT
 who isn't a visionary.

A KNIGHT (OR MINISTER)
 Tell us of the magic.

PULL BACK TO INCLUDE Leoric and Feryl.'

FERYL

It is wondrous...

LEORIC

With it, we can do great things for
 civilization.

(pause, thinking)
 If it can be controlled.

ANGLE ON THE DOOR

a crier walks in.

CRIER

May I introduce the fair Princess
 Galadria of Androsia.

Galadria steps in.

WIDE ANGLE - THE KNIGHTS AND GALADRIA

They bow to her.

She bows back.

GALADRIA

I'm sorry to disturb your festivities,
 but I have grave news from the north.
 Cryotek has been captured by Darkstorm
 and his knights.

ECTAR

ECTAR

This is what comes of peace treaties with
Darkstorm.

FERYL

FERYL

Our intentions were the best.

ECTAR

ECTAR

It would come as little surprise to
me to learn that Arzon and Witter Quick
were also in grave danger.

GALADRIA

Perhaps we should mount an attack on
the Darkling Lords.

ECTAR

If they have indeed captured our comrades and their
magic, we would stand little chance.

FERYL

If you have any more cheery thoughts, save
them. Leoric has to think.

LEORIC

is lost in contemplation.

LEORIC

There is no easy answer.

Then he turns and looks at -

THE WISDOM POWER STAFF

that stands next to his throne.

LEORIC

Let us see what my Power Staff
councils.

(pause)

Whispered secrets of a shattered age I
summon you, renew this sage!

*

ANGLE ON THE POWER STAFF

All the lights seem to dim in the castle.

THE MAGICAL OWL

drifts out of the POWER STAFF and eyes the room and Leoric for a few moments.

Play the moment.

WISDOM OWL

Become one with the circle of light.

ON LEORIC

he steps towards the owl, but is vanishes.

LEORIC

What do you mean by that?

ON THE POWER STAFF

it is blank.

LEORIC

What can he mean by that?

ANGLE AROUND THE ROOM

The different knights have nothing to say.

Finally, Ectar responds.

ECTAR

I think you might strongly consider requesting a new POWER STAFF from Merklynn.

GALADRIA

GALADRIA

No... It has to mean something. I know it. We just have to figure out what.

LEORIC

becomes the king again.

LEORIC

Until we do, man the parapets.
We must expect a vicious onslaught.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE BATTLEMENTS OF NEW VALARAK - SIEGE PREPARATIONS

We see the walls rimmed with knights, who wear less flashy armor than the Spectral Knights.

Here and there we see preparations for a siege.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON A HIGH TOWER

A sentry peers into the distance.

He sees something.

THE SENTRY
(SHOUTING)
Enemy vehicles approaching!

LEORIC

looks down.

LEORIC
Feryl... What do you make of the
vehicles?

He looks down.

FERYL
They are not animal-powered...

LEORIC
That's impossible.

FERYL

steps out to the parapet, SNIFFING.

FERYL
They are definitely machine-powered.
One of them is even flying!

THEIR POV - THE VEHICLES

move towards the castle.

LEORIC
I expected a thundering army.
I see only six Darkling Lords
and their vehicles.

ECTAR, FERYL AND LEORIC

look down into the valley.

ECTAR

I feel as if I should take this
as an insult.

FERYL

It appears that they have stopped
their vehicles.

LEORIC

I wonder what for.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON THE DAGGAR ASSAULT

Mortdredd is loaded into the catapult.

MORTDREDD

Should I die now, I want all to remember
that I have undertaken this deed for love
of my master and king, Darkstorm.

DARKSTORM

looks down dispassionately.

DARKSTORM

You shall forever live in the hall of
valor, Mortdredd.

CINDARR

mans the lever that will eventually catapult Mortdredd.

CINDARR

Where's the Hall of Valor?

REEKON

looks up from the engine.

REEKON

Quiet, idiot.

DARKSTORM

looks down dispassionately.

DARKSTORM

Catapult him.

THE CATAPULT

Mortdredd is fired off of the catapult and -

MORTDREDD - TRACKING

flies through the air, until he is very near the castle walls.

MORTDREDD
(SCREAMS WITH FEAR)

And lands roughly on a parapet.

MORTDREDD

tries to regain some composure.

MORTDREDD
Darkstorm demands the surrender of New Valarak.

LEORIC

all but laughs at them.

LEORIC
Tell Darkstorm that we are less than impressed by his show of force.

MORTDREDD

looks down to the battle field.

MORTDREDD
How am I to get back?

ECTAR

points to -

A CATAPULT

- The implication is clear that he'll be shot back the way he came.

CUT TO:

THE DARKLING LORDS - MOMENTS LATER

Mortdredd drops INTO SHOT.

MORTDREDD
It seems he has refused our offer.

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CRAVEX

(wildly angry)

What did you expect, you idiot!? Why
are we wasting time!

He's shaking his sword, clearly having a fit.

CRAVEX

Let us go in there and crush them,
before I take my aggressions out on
all of you!

DARKSTORM

even he's intimidated.

DARKSTORM

It's all right, Cravex. We will
commence the assault. Cindarr,
unleash the beast.

CINDARR

holds his POWER STAFF high.

CINDARR

By nature's hand, by crafts, by art, what
once was one, now fly apart!

ON THE POWER STAFF

perhaps the most hideous transition we're ever going to see
starts. The Wombat in the POWER STAFF jumps out about four
hundred times the size of life.

ANGLE ON THE BATTLEMENTS

Leoric's troops watch in horror.

SOLDIER #1

What is it?!

SOLDIER #2

I don't know. I've never seen anything
like it!

LEORIC, ECTAR, FERYL AND GALADRIA

They watch in disbelief.

ECTAR

There can be little question about it,
Leoric. Merklynn gave you a bum Power
Staff.

ON THE WALL

The Death Beast attacks it. With his hideous claws and club, he rips down battlements.

CLOSE - ON SOLDIERS

They run off the battlements.

They dive out of towers into -

- bales of hay.

- water troughs.

- The moat.

THE WOMBAT OF DOOM

rends a terrible hole in the walls.

Some of the brave soldiers shoot arrows at it, only to discover that they turn to sparks when they strike it.

ON SOLDIERS

they see the terrible beast and flee.

SOLDIER #3

There's no stopping it!

ACT II ENDS.

BEGIN ACT III

FADE IN:

EXT. ON LEORIC'S RAMPART

Just as (it) is about to tear down the wall that Leoric and the others stand on, it disappears.

GALADRIA

I hope they don't have anything else that nasty.

ECTAR

Don't bet on it.

PAN DOWN THE BATTLEMENTS

All of the defenders have fled -- all save for the Spectral Knights.

FERYL

The troops have fled.

ECTAR

Can you blame them?

the
Wombat

ON THE DARKLING LORDS

They charge the battlements.

LEORIC

Well, it looks like they're trying to take us without using up any more of their magic. We've got a chance.

CINDARR

changes to Gorilla Mode and climbs with incredible dexterity up a broken wall.

THE GOOD KNIGHTS

stand firm on their wall.

LEORIC

Stay here, and let them come to us, ... on our ground.

CINDARR

in gorilla mode picks up gigantic rocks and hurls them at ---

THE GOOD KNIGHTS

missing them by too little.

CINDARR

beats his chest.

CINDARR

(Ape Shouts)

Then, he hears a CAT'S MEOW...

He stops and looks around.

MEOW!

Then, after turning into a human again, he starts digging in the rubble.

ON THE DARKLING LORDS

They scamper up the walls to do battle with the Good Knights.

*

DARKSTORM

makes his way up the rubble (basically, the castle can be as toppled or un-toppled as we want it).

DARKSTORM
Cindarr, what are you doing?

CINDARR

is digging around.

He hears another Meow!

CINDARR
I might have hurt^a cat!

Cindarr is filled with remorse, and frantically searches for the feline.

DARKSTORM

keeps climbing.

DARKSTORM
A cat! Who cares?!

CINDARR

ignores him and keeps digging.

When he finds the cat, he cradles it.

CINDARR
Sorry, I meant no harm.

DARKSTORM

is extremely irritated with his knight.

DARKSTORM
We must see if that Wizard has a spell to remove Cindarr's compassion.

ON THE GOOD KNIGHT'S WALL

Feryl jumps off the wall and runs screaming down to join the battle.

FERYL

I can't wait anymore.

FERYL'S BATTLE

He runs in screaming, sending Lexor scurrying.

FERYL
(Wolfish war cries)

DARKSTORM
sees Lexor.

DARKSTORM
Get back in the battle, Lexor
or suffer my wrath!

LEXOR

does an about-face and runs back towards Feryl.

FERYL

CROSSES weapons with Lexor and drives him back.
Then REEKON and DARKSTORM charge ^{Feryl}(him) from behind.

GALADRIA AND LEORIC

watch anxiously.

GALADRIA
We've got to go down there and help
him!

ON FERYL

He's caught between Lexor, Reekon and Darkstorm.
Suddenly, ^{Feryl}(he) changes into his wolf shape and he charges -

LEXOR

who dashes out of the way.

REEKON

however, jumps the wolf from behind.

There's a terrible snarling fight.

Cravex jumps into the fray, and, then, Mortdredd.

All of them wrestle the wolf.

Feryl turns back into a human.
Not wasting an instant --

MORTDREDD

cuffs him with futuristic handcuffs.

ON ALL

As the Good Knights charge from above.

DARKSTORM

Lexor, take him to the detention cell.

ON LEORIC AND ECTAR

they jump down on Darkstorm, Reekon, Mortdredd and Cindarr,
exchanging blows.

GALADRIA

jumps down from a crumbled boulder onto -

CRAVEX

and knocks him off his feet.

CRAVEX

lies on his back.

GALADRIA

climbs over the rocks towards him.

CRAVEX

turns to his POWER STAFF.

CRAVEX

O mist-filled pits, dark, dank, unclear,
touch all before me with frost-fingered fear!

ON THE POWER STAFF

a spider appears out of it and quickly scurries along the
rocks.

ON GALADRIA

she strikes at (it), but her sword only succeeds in knocking
it in half, causing more spiders to grow (or some such
effect).

the spider

A SPIDER

then jumps unexpectedly and -
- bites her.

GALADRIA

starts to hallucinate -

HER POV - THE HORIZON

A terrible wave crashes over the horizon, cutting smashing everything in it's way (forests, cathedrals, a town, whatever).

- and threatening the castle walls.

GALADRIA

she shouts in horror.

GALADRIA

Run! We'll all drown.

ON LEORIC

He fights and looks down and -

LEORIC'S POV - GALADRIA

- sees her fleeing up the broken wall.

Then, he sees the horizon in the distance. No tidal wave.

LEORIC

Galadria, it's an hallucination.

GALADRIA

does not believe it, and keeps running to -

GALADRIA

We have to find safe ground. Hurry!

- the top of the parapet, where she holds on for dear life and looks off the horizon, shaking.

She is out of the fight.

LEORIC AND ECTAR

stand alone against the onslaught.

LEORIC

standing amidst the broken wall, fights valiantly, as Cindarr, Mortdredd and Darkstorm attack him.

DARKSTORM

Only a fool would press further.

Reekon tries to slip behind Leoric.

LEORIC

Then, call me a fool!

With a mighty crack of his whip, ^(Leoric) he drives -

REEKON

into flight, after Reekon tries to sneak around him.

DARKSTORM, LEXOR AND MORTDREDD

attack Leoric, ^{who} gives Lexor a sharp crack with his whip, causing Lexor to become an Armadillo and Scurry away.

Leoric keeps whipping.

Meanwhile -

MORTDREDD

transforms to beetle mode and

REAL INTERESTING ANGLE

creeps behind him in beetle Mode -

- then shifts to human mode -

- and attacks!

LEORIC

throws his POWER STAFF to -

ECTAR

who exchanges blows with Cindarr and -

LEORIC

shouts.

PRINCE LEORIC

Ectar, take the Power Staff! You must keep it from the Darkling Lords!

ON LEORIC

an instant later, Mortdredd crashes Leoric from behind.

He stumbles.

Darkstorm wails at him from in front.

Reekon gets a jab in.

And PRINCE LEORIC falls.

ECTAR

bashes Cindarr knocking him off balance long enough to flee him.

DARKSTORM

is enraged.

DARKSTORM

Seize him!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE STREETS OF NEW VALARAK - MOMENTS LATER

ECTAR runs with the POWER STAFF through the deserted city.

Suddenly, the Sky Claw appears above him, firing fireshrikes.

IN THE SKY CLAW

Mortdredd and Reekon are really enjoying themselves.

ON ECTAR

At his most desperate moment, he changes into his FOX TOTEM -
- and dodges the missiles.

THE SKY CLAW

Reekon bangs his hand on the gun.

REEKON

Drat, I'm nearly out of fireshrikes!

MORTDREDD

pilots, smiling.

ON ECTAR

For just a moment, it looks like he's gotten away, when -

ON THE SKY CLAW

- the spirit of the vulture emerges from the Sky Claw and dives on ECTAR.

MORTDREDD

If only Darkstorm could see this...

It isn't much of a battle.

ON THE STREET

As the Fox is pulled into the vulture's clutches, and he re-forms into Ectar we -

dissolve to:

#

EXT. DARKSTORM'S CASTLE

The Dagger Assault vehicle races along, taking up the entire road, and knocking peasants and their wagons out of the way (or at least forcing them to jump into ditches and things).

CUT TO:

INT. DARKSTORM'S CASTLE COURTYARD - DAY

The Dagger Assault vehicle pulls up to the front wall of the Dungeon (which is a converted government building, and dumps out the last four Spectral Knights (ECTAR, FERYL, PRINCE LEORIC AND GALADRIA).

ON THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

They don't look good. They are all wearing handcuffs. Galadria is still probably seeing hallucinations. Leoric is dazed and his armor dented. Feryl is in similar condition and Ectar has nasty rips in his armor, where the Hologram Vulture's talons grabbed him.

DARKSTORM

watches from the top of the dungeon steps, gloating over his victory.

DARKSTORM

Swear allegiance to me!

*

ECTAR

turns and frowns at him.

ECTAR

You really ought to do something about your insecurity problem.

DARKSTORM

gestures to Mortdredd and Lexcr.

DARKSTORM

To demonstrate my incredible powers,
I will have Feryl thrown into the
magical dungeon. *

Feryl is roughly grabbed and chucked into -

THE ^{detention} ~~DETENTION~~ CELL ON THE SIDE OF THE DAGGAR ASSAULT
VEHICLE

The magical light flickers. Feryl shifts from flesh to
skeleton. The ancient ~~magic~~ MOANS and GROWLS. Something
horrible is happening here.

THE GOOD KNIGHTS

look on with horror.

THE DARKLING LORDS

look on with glee. *

ON THE TORTURE CHAMBER

When the terrible display of power is over ---

DARKSTORM

Remove him!

MORTDREDD AND LEXOR

step over and pull Feryl out.

FERYL'S TOTEM

is removed!

THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

are shocked.

LEORIC !

They've stolen his totem. *

ON DARKSTORM

DARKSTORM

To avoid a similar fate, you will
all swear allegiance to me now!

THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

aren't having any of this.

THE KNIGHTS
(AD-LIB)

Never!

DARKSTORM

DARKSTORM

I expected as much. Therefore,
I will give time to think about it.
Every hour from now till the end,
I shall remove another one of your totems
unless you kneel to my omnipotence.
~~my omnipotence.~~

MORTDREDD

claps.

MORTDREDD

How merciful our leader is.

THE DARKLING LORDS

grab our guys one by one and chuck them down a chute in the
side of the dungeon building.

DARKSTORM

Let them contemplate their bleak
futures in the Dank Silence of
my Dungeon.

CUT TO:

INT. DARKSTORM'S DUNGEON

The other three Spectral Knights, Cryotek, Arzon and Witter
Quick sleep. Suddenly, the door on the vehicle opens and -

THUNK - Leoric lands on them

WITTER QUICK

I think we're in trouble.

THUNK - Galadria lands on them.

WITTER QUICK

I think we're in deeper trouble.

THUNK - Ectar lands on them.

WITTER QUICK

I think we're in deepest trouble.

THUNK - Feryl lands on them.

WITTER QUICK

It's hopeless.

ARZON

It is never hopeless.

(looks around)

Well, almost never.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DARKSTORM'S COURTYARD

Darkstorm stands before an assembled throng of many of his citizens who are clearly wondering what this assembly is going to be all about.

CITIZENS

(AD-LIB)

I have better things to do than stand around.

Maybe he's going to tell us about the magic.

MORTDREDD

Quiet down and show respect for the Exulted Darkstorm, Lord of the High Valley, King of the Bleaklands, Great Pundah of the Cracked lands, Major holder of unnamed acres, Sire of all he surveys, and most recently, Mayor of New Valarak.

(he would go on for hours but -)

DARKSTORM

That will be all Mortdredd.

(pause)

I know there are many rumors circulating about why I have called you all together. Some of those rumors say that I plan to take away your property and even children.
(like a Baptist minister)

I do not plan to take anything. I do not have to. All you own is already mine, including your wretched lives.

ONE RICH MAN

stands out from the crowd.

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RICH MAN
 You and your fancy magic do not scare me.
 I will fight you with the last ounce
 of my strength.

Other men step out in the line.

OTHER MEN
 (AD-LIB)
 We will not tolerate this. Live
 free or die.

RICH MAN
 Return to the swamp you came from!

DARKSTORM

looks to his POWER STAFF.

DARKSTORM
 Who said that about the swamp!?

RICH MAN

steps towards Darkstorm belligerently.

RICH MAN
 I did, you muck-sucker!

DARKSTORM AND HIS POWER STAFF

DARKSTORM
 Let me attempt to change your opinion of me.
 (shouts)
 By what creeps, what crawls, by what does not,
 let all that grows recede and rot!

ON THE POWER STAFF

Without any hesitation, the FLYING RAT emerges. It is about
 twice the size of a human.

The RICH MAN tries to protect himself, but nothing can stop
 the Rat from wrapping himself around the Rich Man.

Then, the Rat HISSES at the rest of the crowd and -

THE CROWD

flees to the gate of the courtyard, but --

GUARDS

slam it shut.

THE CROWD

realizes it's trapped.

CROWD

(AD LIB)

'SHRIEKS

It's magical!

We have no hope against Darkstorm!

THE RICH MAN

Starts to grow old and withered.

DARKSTORM

gestures to a large mirror.

DARKSTORM

Look at yourself!

THE RICH MAN

sees himself in the mirror.

RICH MAN

SCREAMS

DARKSTORM

is enjoying this.

DARKSTORM

In order to show that I am a kind and compassionate ruler, I will give this man the opportunity to grovel at my feet.

(pause)

MORTDREDD

Beg forgiveness!

THE RICH MAN

crawls at Darkstorm's feet.

RICH MAN

(GARGLES SOME WORDS)

DARKSTORM

I'm sorry, but I can't understand you. So we will do this democratically. Unless the sentiment is unanimous amongst the crowd, you will live the rest of your life a decaying pile of grukk.

DARKSTORM (CONT'D)

(to crowd)

All in favor of returning this man to normal will
say: Darkstorm is master of all!

CROWD

Darkstorm is master of all!

DARKSTORM

Again.

CROWD

Darkstorm is master of all!

DARKSTORM

Good. Please give your donations to my
collectors.

The DARKLING LORDS

walk around with offering plates on poles.

DARKSTORM

looks down at the rotting man.

DARKSTORM

Restore him.

**

THE FLYING RAT

emerges from the Power Staff and inhales.

THE ROT

is sucked away, and what remains is -

THE RICH MAN

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DARKSTORM'S DUNGEON

Prince Leoric and the good knights sit in a heap in the
darkest, dingiest place in the world.

To make things worse, the cowardly Lexor details the
horrible tortures (V.O.) through a tube.

LEXOR (V.O.)

If you do not swear allegiance to
Darkstorm, you will suffer a lifetime
of torment.

- ECTAR

You mean we'll be forced to listen
to your irritating chatter?

LEXOR (V.O.)

There is nothing wrong with my
speaking voice.

Then we hear a DOOR SLAM SHUT.

THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

look up.

FERYL

Good work, Ectar, you got rid of
him.

ECTAR

That may have been the most successful
thing we've done in quite some time.

WITTER QUICK

There's no denying it. This
is our darkest hour.

**

FERYL

Tell me this. What would be so wrong
with our swearing allegiance to
Darkstorm just long enough to get
out of here and then un-swearing it?

**

ARZON

A true knight would never do that.

LEORIC

suddenly, a light goes on inside him.

LEORIC

Wait. Remember the wisdom given to
me by my POWER STAFF?

ECTAR

Something cryptic about becoming one
with the circle of light.

LEORIC

That's right. That's the only way to
fight the Darkling Lords.

WITTER QUICK

I don't get it. I don't get it.

LEORIC

To become one with the circle of light
is to form a brotherhood. A true, lasting
alliance. A pledge to stick together through
good times and bad. A pledge to drive
evil from Prysmos and work for the
betterment of all. I propose that
right now, in the depths of darkness,
we form the SPECTRAL KNIGHTS, a sacred,
secret order dedicated to bringing light to
the darkness of our world.

All the knights stand and raise their hands like they were
swords in common cause.

LEORIC

May the Light Shine Forever!

ALL

May the Light Shine Forever!

(PAUSE)

May the Light Shine Forever!

LEORIC

Let it be said that, on this day
the brotherhood was formed.

ALL

HAIL THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS!

As the enthusiasm trails off.

ECTAR

This is all well and good, but
how are we going to get out of
here?

ARZON

Where there is hope, there is a
way.

FADE OUT

END DAY II

#