



VISIONARIES

THE OVERTHROW OF MERKLYN

BY FLINT DILLE

FINAL 4/10/87

VISIONARIES 7
THE OVERTHROW OF MERKLYNN

Received
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*Jay
file*
Final 4/10

FADE IN:

EXT. ARZON'S FATHER'S CASTLE - DAY

A purplish hue silhouettes the great aerie-style castle IN THE BACKGROUND, as we see the DAGGAR ASSAULT VEHICLE and SKY CLAW IN THE FOREGROUND.

DARKSTORM

I warn you once more, King Tazlon -
(MORE)

ON THE DARKLING LORDS

They stand in front of the castle, weapons drawn (but notably there are no holograms in their standards).

DARKSTORM (CONT'D)

- surrender or the mighty Darkstorm
shall raze your castle.

THE DARKLING LORDS (Except DS & Mortdredd)
(Clear their throats.)

DARKSTORM

Correction, the mighty Darkling Lords shall
raze your castle.

ANGLE ON A PARAPET

King Tazlon, who looks like an old Arzon, stands with a couple of his aides.

TAZLON

(Lets out a laugh)
Do what you will, Darkstorm, your seven
soldier army hardly intimidates me.

DARKSTORM

yells again.

DARKSTORM

Certainly your son, Arzon, has told you of
our magical powers.

TAZLON

Yes, and I should love to see a demonstration.

THE DARKLING LORDS

Darkstorm turns to his men.

DARKSTORM
What shall we use? The power of destruction?

CINDARR
All gone!

DARKSTORM
Drat!
(to Cravex)
How about the power of fear.

CRAVEX
Needs a recharge!

DARKSTORM
And I have spent mine...

ON KING TAZLON

He shouts down to Darkstorm.

KING TAZLON
What has become of this fearsome attack,
Darkstorm?
(to an aide)
Order the armies to ready a counter-attack.

The Aide salutes and runs away.

ON THE DARKLING LORDS

They stand around, bickering.

DARKSTORM
How could you idiots have allowed me to
come into battle without any magic? Let us
beat a hasty retreat.

REEKON

smiles.

REEKON
Wait! There are certain fees to be paid,
for my driving skills.

DARKSTORM

waves him away.

DARKSTORM

Begone with your threats. We will not need your skills.

REEKON

points at the castle.

REEKON

I fear you are wrong.

ON THE CASTLE

We hear the SOUND OF TRUMPETS and a mass of soldiers charge out.

ON THE DARKLING LORDS

They turn to face their attackers...

DARKSTORM

knows he's about to be overrun.

DARKSTORM

Fine... I will double your fee, Reekon.

ON MORTDREDD

MORTDREDD

How dare you extort the great Darkstorm at this moment of crisis?

REEKON

calmly holds out his hand. Darkstorm pulls some gold from a pouch, and pays him.

REEKON

It is foolish to extort people when they are not in a moment of crisis.

ON THE CHARGING ARMIES

They are approaching the vehicles.

CRAVEX AND REEKON

turns into his phylot form, while

DARKSTORM, REEKON, MORTDREDD, LEXOR, VIRULINA AND CINDARR

run to the vehicles in human form and -

ANOTHER ANGLE

The vehicles ROAR away a moment before they would have been engulfed by King Tazlon's troops.

ON KING TAZLON

He and his two aides get a big ho-ho out of this.

KING TAZLON

(LAUGHTER)

Arzon will roar with delight when he hears of this.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DARKSTORM'S CASTLE - LATER

A dark, brooding cloud hangs over the place, symbolizing the mental activity taking place inside. HOLD FOR A MOMENT, and we see Lexor and Virulina step INTO SHOT from opposite directions.

LEXOR

It occurs to me that Darkstorm's rule has been below par lately.

VIRULINA

Yes... I have had similar thoughts.

LEXOR

Perhaps he should be replaced.

VIRULINA

Perhaps you are right.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DARKSTORM'S THRONE ROOM

Darkstorm frowns with his head on his hand.

MORTDREDD

It pains me to see you in such foul humor, Darkstorm.

DARKSTORM

You think it pains you. Imagine how it pains me.

(MORE)

ANOTHER ANGLE - MORTDREDD AND DARKSTORM

Mortdredd recoils like a bad stage actor each time he hears of a pain to his idol, and master, Darkstorm.

DARKSTORM (CONT'D)

Imagine how little I want to hike
all the way to that Shrine. And
cow-tow to that rancid Merklyn.

MORTDRED

It is beneath the dignity of Darkstorm to
humble himself for any man or wizard...

DARKSTORM

It is indeed.
(getting an idea)

What was done with that ridiculous little
wizard we captured a while ago?

MORTDRED

The Wizard Falkama?

DARKSTORM

Yes... He claimed to know Merklynn's weakness.

MORTDREDD

I believe we -
(dialogue continues in next scene)

DISSOLVE TO:

INSERT - A CROSSECTION MAP OF DARKSTORM'S CASTLE

THE CAMERA tracks down a CROSSECTION of the castle until we see
THE DEEPEST DUNGEON.

MORTDRED (CONT'D) (V.O.)

- caste him into the deepest dungeon in the castle.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE DUNGEON

Falkama sits before a small stage presentation wherein mice and
spiders and beetles do a silly little opera.

MORTDREDD (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You know, it seems he does have some
special powers. Not enough to get himself
out of prison, mind you, but enough to amuse
himself by producing elaborate stage shows
with the rats, insects and slime that infest
the dungeon.

DARKSTORM (V.O.)

Get him up here!

Suddenly, a hook drops INTO SHOT, and pulls the protesting Wizard up.

WIZARD FALKAMA

No! My presentation is not finished -
(TRAILS OFF)

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DARKSTORM'S THRONE ROOM

Falkama still hangs on a hook as he speaks with Darkstorm. Mortdredd operates the hook controls IN THE BACKGROUND.

THE WIZARD FALKAMA

I cannot over state my dislike for Merklyn,
or my desire to see him vanquished!

DARKSTORM

Is there a way of doing this?

THE WIZARD FALKAMA

Yes, but it shall be difficult. We must
have a book known as the Omnipoticon.

DARKSTORM

And where can I locate this object.

THE WIZARD FALKAMA

It is stored in the athenaeum. But there
is another problem.

DARKSTORM

Isn't there always.

THE WIZARD FALKAMA

We must also have Merklyn's crystal orb, and
Merklyn cannot be toppled so long as he stays
in the Shrine.

DARKSTORM

If you can lead me to the Athenaeum, I can lure
Merklyn fro the Shrine.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE ATHENAEUM

A sinister greenish light glows in the sky over the Athenaeum.¹
At one time, this was probably a regular "parthenon" type

¹This is a swanky word for library.

library, but since then, it has been walled up, and the only entrance is a large brass door. We should notice a fountain in front.

DARKSTORM

Mortdredd, go forth and fetch the book for us.

MORTDREDD

steps to the iron door, slams his weapon against it, and the door falls down.

Then, Mortdredd steps in. The others watch expectantly.

MORTDREDD (O.S.)

I take this book in the name of Darkstorm,
Lord of the Veldt, High Vizier of the Cliffs --

SUDDENLY, we see a flash of flame coming out of the Athenaeum, and Mortdredd comes running out.

MORTDREDD

Aaaah!!

THE WIZARD FALKAMA

raises his eyebrows.

WIZARD FALKAMA

It seems that Smallog still lives.

MORTDREDD

sits in the fountain to cool off his smoking backside.

MORTDREDD

I was unable to reach the book, Master.

ANGLE ON REEKON

He gets up and walks to the door.

REEKON

Let me try, I have an affinity for reptiles.

REEKON'S POV - THE DRAGON SMALLOG

The poor creature looks like and is about a million years old. His chest still heaves as he catches his breath after shooting the fire. Behind him is small book (about the size of a paperback) sitting on a special pedestal.

REEKON
This one is long in years. Probably
hasn't eaten for a millenium.

REEKON

pulls a whopper insect (the size of a softball) from a bag at his waist, and throws it into the Athenaeum.

THE DRAGON

sees the little bug, flicks his tongue out, and catches it. Then, he chows down.

REEKON

steps in, calmly walks to the book as we hear the grotesque sounds of the monster eating, and starts to walk out.

As he nears the door, he hears the thing sucking in his breath and starts running.

THE MONSTER

sucks in as much breath as he can and -

- shoots a blast of fire.

ON THE DOOR

but not before Reekon throws the book out of the door, turns into a Lizard, and scurries out.

EXT. THE ATHENAEUM - DARKSTORM

catches the book and examines it.

DARKSTORM
Rather smaller than I might have expected.

THE WIZARD FALKAMA

takes the book from his hand and opens it.

THE WIZARD FALKAMA
It was a pocket printing.

He flips through a couple of pages and smiles.

THE WIZARD FALKAMA

Yes, I now know the spell that will bring Merkllynn to his knees, but I must have Wizard's Bane.

DARKSTORM

lifts him by the collar...

DARKSTORM

Not another quest. I dislike quests.

THE WIZARD FALKAMA

No, this will not be a quest. We will simply pick it up at a magic supply store.

Darkstorm lets him down.

DARKSTORM

Good... Now give no thought to betraying me.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LEORIC'S THRONE ROOM - DAY

Leoric sits at the end of a long table which is populated by a couple of Knights (and Ectar) on one side, and a group of "regular" citizens on the other side. The citizens are lead by a grouchy OLD LADY and a DANDIFIED LAWYER.

GROUCHY LADY

I don't want my sleep disturbed by a bunch of young whipper-snappers. snappers.

ECTAR

We are only proposing to build a barracks, not a discotech...

DANDIFIED LAWYER

Yes, but my clients concern is valid. Young men do tend to be noisy.

ECTAR

I resent that, my troops are well disciplined.

GROUCHY LADY

Your troops are impudent -

Leoric's gavel BANGS on the table.

LEORIC

I think we can resolve this issue without resorting to name calling.

ECTAR

I assure you, all of the knights in this kingdom are well disciplined.

Suddenly, we hear a CRASH!

WHIP PAN to the door to show Witter Quick CRASHING through the door and landing on the floor in a heap.

DANDIFIED LAWYER

We rest our case.

Leoric looks over, disturbed.

LEORIC

Your timing could have been better.

WITTER QUICK

picks himself up.

WITTER QUICK

The Darkling Lords are advancing on New Valarak!

ON THE FANCY LAWYER

he and his client are annoyed.

LAWYER

Does this mean the zoning meeting will be cut short.

LEORIC

stands up...

LEORIC

I'm afraid so.

(To Witter Quick)

Summon the Spectral Knights!

DISSOLVE TO:

A "PASS" NEAR NEW VALARAK - LATER

The Darkling Lords ride through what was once a freeway underpass. If it seems like they are trying to be ambushed, you've got the right idea.

DARKSTORM

(Loudly)

I'll bet the Spectral Knights don't have any idea we're coming.

REEKON

(Staged Loudly)

Of course not. Our stealthy advance has completely fooled them.

PAN OVER TO what was once a freeway overpass but is now broken in the center, and overgrown with plants. Then PULL CLOSER to reveal that Arzon, Ectar and Leoric are watching from concealment.

ARZON

It is almost as if they want to be spotted.

LEORIC

looks at the oncoming column.

LEORIC

Attack carefully... This might be a trap.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE AMBUSH BRIDGE

The Darkling Lords make their way slowly to the bridge where they will be ambushed...

REEKON

In the past, I might have suspected an ambush at this bridge, but we have so stealthily out maneuvered them -

ANGLE ON LEORIC

He looks down and shouts -

LEORIC
Attack!

ANGLE ON DARKSTORM

He looks up.

DARKSTORM
Oh, dear! We are under attack.

Then, Leoric drops on him.

DARKSTORM
Do not harm me, Leoric. I will come
peacibly.

ON CINDARR

Cryotek drops on him.

CINDARR
(bad acting)
Oh no! I am captured!

THE OTHER CAPTURES - QUICK CUTS

Galadria drops on Virulina.

VIRULINA
You were right. I could not evade
you forever.

Arzon drops on Cravex

CRAVEX
Drat... I should never have listened
to Darkstorm. You
Spectral Knights are tougher than
we are.

Feryl lands on Lexor.

Ectar lands on Mortdredd.

LEORIC

ties Darkstorm's hands.

LEORIC

It is time that you finish your sentence in the sign factory.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE GATES OF NEW VALARAK - MEDIUM SHOT

The Darkling Lords are being lead into New Valarak. Leoric and Ectar stand at the gate watching.

ECTAR

There is a rotten stench to our easy victory.

LEORIC

I'm afraid, I agree.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE MEDIEVAL TRAFFIC SIGN FACTORY - NIGHT

The Darkling Lords hammer away, making stop signs, dissention is beginning to spread amongst them.

REEKON

is extremely angry.

REEKON

Why did we allow ourselves to be caught?

VIRULINA

LEXOR We follow a fool!

looks over, annoyed.

LEXOR

Who is more the fool. The fool, or he who follows the fool. I have warned all of you of Darkstorm's incompetence for a long time and you have answered me with silence.

Then, a magical mist drifts into the Dungeon.

THE WIZARD MERKLYNN

magically appears on the high platform and looks down with anger..

MERKLYNN

This is the last time I shall intercede to save you. The next time you are captured, I will let you rot in here.

He steps into the room, and unlocks the Darkling Lords' shackles with a magical key.

When he reaches Darkstorm.

MERKLYNN

Your men are right. They are following a fool.

ANOTHER ANGLE

In response, Darkstorm pulls a magical leaf from his sleeve and

--

-- touches it to Merklynn.

DARKSTORM

Now who is the fool, Merklynn?
I used this ruse to lure you from your Shrine.

CLOSE ON MERKLYNN

The leaf's incapacitating powers take effect immediately. The wizard drops the crystal ball, trembles and begs...

MERKLYNN

No, not wizards' bane... I thought it had been eradicated from Prysmos...

Then, we see another figure materializing behind the paralyzed Merklynn. It is the Wizard Falkama.

THE WIZARD FALKAMA

It has not. It is simply being marketed under another name.

He takes the crystal ball.

THE WIZARD FALKAMA

Come, brave knights, and we shall take control of the Shrine.

ON DARKSTORM

He taps Falkama on the shoulder.

DARKSTORM

Not so fast. It was I who lured him here. Thank you for your help, Falkama.

Then he touches the bane to the Wizard Falkama --

ANOTHER ANGLE

-- who trembles and mutters something about betrayal.

THE WIZARD FALKAMA

(mutters)

This is betrayal.

With that, Darkstorm takes control of the book, the crystal ball and:

DARKSTORM

(mutters a spell)

Ahtreydkayckeslkesnkey

WIDE ANGLE - ALL

The Two Wizards vanish.

CINDARR

Hey, what happened to them?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE WIZARDS' GAOL - LONG SHOT

We see a regular mountain with glowing parapets and towers sticking out of it here and there.

Then, we see two things streak across the sky.

DARKSTORM (V.O.)

I have banished them to the Wizard's gaol so they will not be able to spread mischief throughout the realm.

INT. THE WIZARDS GAOL

This is the Wizards' Gaol (jail). It's a dark, dank place where A bunch of wizards with long white, black and brown beards sit around and play chess and cards.

Suddenly, the Merklynn and Falkama appear and drop into the room with a loud clatter.

DARKSORM (V.O.)
And I alone shall control the magic.

FADE OUT

END ACT 1

ACT 2

FADE IN:

INT. "THE SIGN FACTORY" - SAME TIME

Darkstorm holds the book and looks at it.

DARKSTORM

Yes, there are quite a few interesting things in this book. But first, to get us out of here.

He pages through the book and notices that Reekon is looking over his shoulder.

DARKSTORM

Your nosiness will get you in trouble one day, Reekon.

Reekon slinks into the background.

REEKON

I was but trying to help you, Darkstorm, for the light here is very bad.

CLOSER ON DARKSTORM AND THE BOOK

He looks at the pages

DARKSTORM

Let me see... Telepathy...
Telekinesis... Ah... Teleportation.

(pause)

Unfortunately, this darned manual only tells me how to move myself.

(MUTTERS: "Gemm-iotta-harnow")

ANOTHER ANGLE

Darkstorm vanishes in a magical manner, leaving the others standing around and looking at each other.

CINDARR

Now whadda we supposed to do?

MORTDREDD

The great Darkstorm will advise us when he feels it is time.

Suddenly, they hear the thundering of feet, and -

DARLKLING LORDS' POV - THE "BRIDGE" ABOVE THEM

They look up to see all of the Spectral Knights come thundering across the Bridge, weapons drawn.

ECTAR
They have escaped their bonds!

ON THE DARKLING LORDS

They look up.

VIRULINA
Darkstorm ditched us!

LEXOR
Does that really come as a surprise to you?

ANGLE ON THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

Leoric stands above them.

LEORIC
Spectral Knights! Secure the area...

The Spectral Knights start to run on the bridge, and then
FREEZE!

Hold for a moment to show that there really is something funky going on.

CINDARR
They are -- frozen.

ON THE DARKLING LORDS

They kind of look up at the frozen Spectral Knights.

DARKSTORM (V.O.)
(Shouting)
That is because I froze them, idiots. Now get to the Shrine on the double.

LEXOR
Are you not going to transport us?

DARKSTORM (V.O.)
Why should I waste valuable energy on your laziness.
(pause)
Move it!

THE DARKLING LORDS

climb the narrow industrial ladder which takes them up to the bridge the Spectral Knights are standing on and is the only way out of the "license plate factory."

When they get to the top of the bridge they stand next to the Frozen Spectral Knights...

ON REEKON AND ECTAR

Reekon stands next to the frozen Ectar.

REEKON

You know, he might make a marvelous trophy for my den.

DARKSTORM (V.O.)

Move it!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE SHRINE - LATER

Darkstorm is sitting in the Sacred Pool reading the OMNIPOTICON, while having his shoulders massaged by a purple female fairy with long fingers and big wings.

DARKSTORM

(instructing the masseuse)

Over to the right a bit.

VARIOUS SHOTS OF THE BOOK

*Here, we should think of some interesting spells he can perform, and show pictures.

Then, we hear the CLANKING of -

ANGLE ON THE DOOR

- the Darkling Lords enter the Shrine, step to the Sacred Pool and charge their Staves.

VIRULINA

Darkstorm! We are not pleased!

DARKSTORM

looks up from his massage with mock concern.

DARKSTORM

Oh, how that grieves me. What is it that I might do for you?

ON THE DARKLING LORDS (Save Darkstorm)

They stand looking at their leader.

MORTDREDD

Though I, of course, do not agree with
their position, I can explain it.
It seems that some of the Darkling Lords
do not feel that they have been
adequately compensated for their efforts.

VIRULINA

steps foreword.

VIRULINA

To put it more bluntly, you welshed on
us.

DARKSTORM

waves the Masseuse away.

DARKSTORM

Enough.

(pause; mock agreement)

Perhaps I have been less than
generous. Who feels that they are
owed by me.

ON THE DARKLING LORDS

Virulina, Reekon, and Lexor all raise their hands.

VIRULINA, REEKON, AND LEXOR
(AD LIB: "I do.")

DARKSTORM

Virulina, Reekon, and Lexor
all feel cheated.

(pause)

How about you, Cindarr?

CINDARR

looks around, then raises his hand.

CINDARR

No... I feel hungry.

ON DARKSTORM

He smiles.

DARKSTORM

Have no fear. I shall give all of you what you deserve.

(pause)

First you, Virulina!

VIRULINA

Suddenly, her face turns ugly and evil...

Moles pop out -

Her teeth fall out of alignment -

Her eyes sink - ..

Her skin turns grey -

DARKSTORM

gestures and -

A STRANGE CREATURE

holding a mirror appears before Virulina.

VIRULINA

(SHRIEKS)

It is hideous. You have ruined my face.

DARKSTORM

No, Virulina... I only made your appearance match your soul!

(pause)

Now... Freeze!

She looks at the mirror and freezes!

REEKON

tries to slink out the door.

DARKSTORM

Where are you going, Reekon? You wouldn't be thinking of leaving me, would you?

CLOSER - REEKON

He turns and throws A SECRET MAGICAL DART at Darkstorm.

REEKON
Begone, Tyrant!

DARKSTORM

points his finger at the flying dart.

DARKSTORM
Artis dartis!

THE DART

turns into an apple in mid-air.

DARKSTORM

the Apple ENTERS SHOT and he catches it.

Then, he starts eating it.

DARKSTORM
You are concerned about nothing but money,
Reekon! Thus I shall make sure that with
every move you make, we are reminded of
money...

REEKON

starts to walk out the door, but his footsteps CLANK LIKE BAGS
OF COINS.

DARKSTORM

looks on this with great amusement.

DARKSTORM
Not very subtle is it.

REEKON

starts to talk, but only the sound of a cash register sounds.

DARKSTORM (O.S.)
Ah... The sound of a cash register. I
haven't heard that sweet noise since ^{the} age
of technology.

Reekon tries to talk and move, and instead sounds like a
brinks truck unloading in the middle of the street.

DARKSTORM

Now - freeze!

(Darkstorm)

Now who else feels put upon? Oh yes, there's
Lxor...

LEXOR

drops to his knees.

LEXOR

Fair leader, Darkstorm. Please do not be
angry with me. I have always been...

DARKSTORM

waves his hand.

DARKSTORM

Stop! I am tired of your lies. Therefore,
I will supply you with a translator who
will let all know what your true thoughts
are...

ON LEXOR

as an exact mirror-image of him appears. This one,
however is dressed in pigmentally opposite colors.

LEXOR'S MIRROR IMAGE

A rough translation of Lxor's last speech
is as follows: Darkstorm, you progeny
of a swine. I will say anything to get out
of this awful situation.... I will betray
you at first opportunity.

The real Lxor looks shocked.

LEXOR

Who bears this false witness upon me.

LEXOR'S MIRROR IMAGE

Translation: How does this jerk read my
mind so easily.

LEXOR

Please, Darkstorm. Give me a chance to
prove my loyalty.

→
 LEXOR'S MIRROR IMAGE
 TRANSLATION: I will do anything to get out of this.

DARKSTORM

is greatly amused by this.

DARKSTORM

Yes Lexor, the Voice of Truth will be a terrible
 bane to you.

(pause)

Now freeze!

LEXOR

and the voice of truth FREEZE.

ON DARKSTORM

As he rises from the Sacred Pool.

DARKSTORM

Now I am left with those who were
 loyal to me. Let me show you the great
 things that can come of my power.

CLOSE ON THE CRYSTAL BALL - EXT. THE PARAPET OF A VAST KINGDOM

The place looks truly evil. We just see the horizon. It is a
 true dictator's dream. Suddenly, Darkstorm, Cindarr, Cravex and
 Mortdredd appear.

DARKSTORM (V.O.)

We will have many slaves. And you will
 be intelligent, Cindarr.

CINDARR

Slave... Fetch me my tract on Magical
 Physics...

Cryotek ENTERS SHOT and kneels before Cindarr...

CRYOTEK

Yes my great Master...

INT. THE SHRINE

The stupid Cindarr gets a big chuckle at this.

CINDARR
 (dumb laughter)
 Cryotek my slave..
 (HO-HO).

IN THE CRYSTAL BALL

The "intelligent" Cindarr has other ideas.

CINDARR
 It has occurred to me, Darkstorm
 that slavery is not a good idea.
 Men lacking incentive are not
 nearly as productive as -

INT. SHRINE - ON DARKSTORM, CINDARR AND MORTDREDD

They watch as Darkstorm holds the crystal ball.

DARKSTORM
 Perhaps I shall make you a little less intelligent.
 (to Mortdredd)
 And you Mortdredd,
 you shall have followers who are as loyal
 to you as you are to me.

IN THE CRYSTAL BALL

We see Mortdredd stepping along a castle wall with several
 "lackies" following him, literally hanging off of him.

LACKIE
 Oh, Great Mortdredd, Assistant to
 Darkstorm, Ruler of Blakdak, Prince
 of the Veldt, Baron of Blackmoore,
 Satrap of Sangora, Major investor in
 other areas and Landlord of New Valarak...

INT. SHRINE - ON MORTDREDD

he is silent, but in a pose of rapture.

DARKSTORM
 Mortdredd! Pay attention to me!

MORTDREDD

Snaps out of his daze.

MORTDREDD
 Forgive me, Darkstorm, Ruler of Blakdak,
 Prince of the Veldt, Baron of Blackmoore,
 Satrap of ...

DARKSTORM
 (interrupting)
 Quiet!!!
 (to Cravex)
 Imagine, Cravex, a world without irritation.

IN THE CRYSTAL BALL

We see Cravex in this kind of a cloudy, fairy place that looks a lot like a child's view of heaven.

DARKSTORM
 Where nothing can make you angry...

DIVINE CRAVEX
 Ah...It looks like my horse is going to win it's four thousandth straight race...Too bad...Racing seems to have lost it's thrill...
 (starting to lose it)
 Why has my favorite pastime lost it's thrill!

Suddenly, TWO HORSES gallop past the screen in the f.g.

RACE ANNOUNCER
 ... It's nose to nose, but Cravex's horse loses!

CRAVEX
 Good. The thrill is back.

INT. SHRINE ON DARKSTORM

He looks at the others.

DARKSTORM
 You see, my friends, there is nothing I can not do with my newfound magic.

ON CINDARR, CRAVEX AND MORTDREDD

They stand there looking like dopes.

CINDARR
 What about us. What will we do?

Darkstorm smiles.

DARKSTORM
 There are certain items I will need.

BACK TO PREVIOUS ANGLE

CRAVEX
 Where have I heard of a deal like that

before.

ON DARKSTORM AND CRAVEX

Darkstorm hovers over the other and hotly responds.

DARKSTORM

Am I to interpret your sarcasm as dissention.

CRAVEX

Never.

MORTDREDD

tries to take the heat out of ths situation.

MORTDRED

In the past it took Wizards decades to learn magic.

DARKSTORM

That is because they were idiots! I know the magic.

(crazy)

I control the magic.

(downright demonic)

I am the magic.

He turns to them with a hideous glee in his eye.

DARKSTORM

Do you want to see the most hideous thing in the world?!

ANGLE ON THE DARKLING LORDS

They look towards the pit -

THE DARKLING LORDS

(GASP IN HORROR)

As the shadow of something terrible falls on them.

ANGLE ON THE MAGICAL POOL - QUICK SHOT

The hideous thing -- tentacles, slimy gross stuff and a horrible eye glop back into the Magical Pool.

DARKSTORM

Do you want to see the most beautiful thing in the world?

A jewel rises from the pit, and within it the shape of a woman which might remind us of "Venus Rising". The jewel vanished in a beautiful hue of light as quickly as it came.

DARKSTORM

is possessed of something terrible.

DARKSTORM

There is no limit to what I can show you...

ANGLE ON THE PIT

A group of planets rises and circles around the roof of the Shrine.

Then fish swim up and circle the planets in a school.

Then Magical Birds fly out and fly with the fish (and if we get real artsy about this, they can merge with the fish ala Escher).

Fireballs and Comets and everything else whirl around, causing the Darkling Lords to duck them and "skip rope over them..."

DARKSTORM

(ECSTATICALLY CHANTS

STRANGE SOUNDS)

Solaris...piesia...aviatum...coruscus!

Then, he waves his arms as if to shrug things off!

All of the stuff merges into a spinning nonsense and swirls back into the pool.

THE SHRINE

is very quiet.

THE DARKLING LORDS

are frozen.

CRAVEX

Even I am dazzled by your prowess,
Darkstorm...

DARKSTORM

Maybe I should even try the Sacred, Secret Spell!

MORTDREDD

What's that?!

He opens the book.

DARKSTORM

No Wizard before has ever uttered

it. No wizard even knows what it
is...

ON MORTDREDD

He's terrified.

MORTDREDD
Perhaps, master, you should reconsider.

DARKSTORM

doesn't hear a word of what he's saying.

DARKSTORM
(MUTTERS AN ANCIENT SPELL)
Cryptis mortem furma pocalypse!!

ANGLE ON THE SHRINE

Suddenly, the Shrine begins to shake.

Everything flashes back and forth between negative and positive colors.

EXT. IRON MOUNTAIN

We see that this phenomenon is not limited to the interior of the Shrine.

The entire planet is shaking.

The Battle Plane is Rended with cracks...

The mountain cracks...

INT. THE SHRINE

The walls of the Shrine fall away...

The Darkling Lords are tumbled out of the shrine and -

A SERIES OF SHOTS

The Darkling Lords falling. Darkstorm holds tight to the Omnipotium and the crystal orb.

Finally, they end up on the ground.

ANGLE ON THE HORIZON

All of the sudden, a figure rises up to fill the horizon. We don't even want to know how big he is, but he fills the horizon from his chest up. He is APOCALYPSE

APOCALYPSE

You have unleashed forces that none can
can replace. You have begat the end of
the world.... First, the ground has shaken!
The other plagues shall follow!

FADE OUT:

END ACT 2

ACT 3

FADE IN:

Same as before.

The Darkling Lords slowly get up. For a moment, the chaos has subsided. Darkstorm looks into the Omnipoticon.

CRAVEX
Look in your book for help!

ON DARKSTORM

Is preoccupied with his book.

DARKSTORM

(sees something and is
horrified)
Oh dear! The pages have changed.

ANGLE ON PAGE ONE OF THE OMNIPOTICON

We see an Earth Quake rending the ground. Under it is a caption reading, "The Plague of the Ground...."

DARKSTORM (O.S.)
The Plague of the Ground... It was the
only the beginning.

PAGE 2

Then, he turns the page and we see Apocalypse Rising on the horizon. The Caption reads, Apocalypse rises.

DARKSTORM (O.S.)
Apocalypse Rises!

PAGE 3

He turns the page again... We see massive fireballs shooting from the sky...

MORTDREDD (O.S.)
The plague of fire! I beg you, master, don't turn
the page again.

PAGE 4

Nevertheless, Darkstorm does... The Page Shows terrible Rat-Like things coming from the ground. The caption reads: "Rise of the Vermin."

PAGE 5

He turns it again, and we see an enormous flood. The Caption reads: The Innundation.

PAGE 6

He turns it again and -- The Page is Black! The caption reads: "The Time of Darkness."

CINDARR
The page is Black!

DARKSTORM (O.S.)
This is serious indeed!

ON THE DARKLING LORDS

They are a confused lot. Most look upwards.

DARKSTORM
Our only hope is to get Merklynn from the
Wizards Gaol.

REEKON (O.S.)
Wrong!

ANGLE ON REEKON, VIRULINA AND LEXOR

They walk towards Darkstorm and the other Darkling Lords. They have returned to normal.

REEKON (CONT'D)
Our only hope is to get rid of you!

MORTDREDD
Their spells have worn off!

VIRULINA
You have done your last stupidity, Darkstorm!

LEXOR
Prepare to meet thine end.

DARKSTORM
draws his weapon.

MORTDREDD

does the same, planning to defend his master.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE TWO SIDES

Walk towards each other.

Suddenly, a SCREAMING FIREBALL, which sounds more like a dive bomber SHATTERS OUR EAR DRUMS.

Then, it drops INTO SHOT right between the two groups and
BLAM!!!

The screen goes black with the explosion.

CRAVEX

It is the Plague of Fire!

When the smoke clears, we see that the Darkling Lords are all
littered around a crater caused by the fireball.

C.U. The Omnipoticon - it is a charred, smoking mess. Darkstorm
tries to pick it up but it crumbles to ashes.

DARKSTORM

NOO! The Omnipoticon, it's ruined!!

cont

ON REEKON AND VIRULINA

picking themselves up and beginning to run as we hear the SCREAMING of other FIREBALLS In the distance, and maybe see them in crashing in the background.

VIRULINA

We will settle our scores later.

Then we hear the screaming of another fireball and the Darkling Lords run an instant before a fireball crashes right where they were and fills the screen with fire.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE PLAGUE OF FIRE - A SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. NEW VALARAK

We see the ^{castle} "bombed" by a series of fireballs which turn it from looking like a regular city into a bombed-out smoking shell in a matter of moments.

CUT TO:

INT. "THE SIGN FACTORY" - SAME TIME

The Spectral Knights are still "frozen."

Then, a fireball crashes through the roof and fills the frame with smoke.

EXT. THE WIZARDS' GAOL - SAME TIME

Fireballs drop all around the old temple. But we can still see the door in.

PAN BACK to the HORIZON and push in. Where we can see the running forms of the Darkling Lords and fireballs raining from the sky (NOTE: The bombardment shouldn't let up.)

ON AN OPEN PLANE

We see the Darkling Lords running along.

Fireballs drop in like artillery shells all around them:

-leaving craters -

- burning trees -

-smashing houses etc..

ON THE DARKLING LORDS

They stop their run.

CRAVEX

It is futile! We must stay here and die!

LEXOR

looks up at his Power Staff.

LEXOR

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

ON THE DARKLING LORDS

Suddenly, Lexors' power shell grows.

Then, our ears are pierced by the scream of a fireball.

BLAMMO!

It bounces harmlessly off the the invulnerability shield.

... As does another.

LONG SHOT - THE INVULNERABLITY SHIELD

It stands strong while the rest of the countryside is rended by
the SCREAMING FIREBALLS.

But then -

...the storm seems to let up.

The shield of invulnerability disappears.

DARKSTORM

Thus ends the plague of fire!

REEKON

That does not leave me looking forewōrd
to the next plague.

CRAVEX

Talk does not further our cause.

THE DARKLING LORDS - TRACKING

start running.

As they do, we become aware of the Devastation inflicted on Prysos. The poor planet is pocked with craters. Smoke rises from everywhere, and the sky is a muddy mauve-black color.

ANGLE ON A CRATER

It is still smoking. Then, it is disturbed, as if something is burrowing up from below.

In a moment, we see a terrible paw emerge, and then an awful head. What crawls out of this hole is something we will call a "Lizrat." It's partly Lizard, partly Rat and there's even a little insect thrown in. The problem is that this thing is ten feet tall. It's eyes and mouth glow irridesciently, and it is clearly a magical creature.

ANGLE ON THE DARKLING LORDS

They run along.

ON CRAVEX'S ANKLE

He runs along. Suddenly, his foot is grabbed by one of these terrible things.

CRAVEX

falls to the ground and turns around.

A LIZRAT

rises from the ground.

LIZRAT
(ROARHISSES)

CRAVEX

rises, brandishing his weapon.

THE LIZRAT

sweeps his weapon away with his claw.

ANOTHER ANGLE - CRAVEX AND THE LIZRAT

The Lizrat sweeps at him again with his claw, but this time Cravex turns into a phylot and takes off.

WIDE ANGLE - THE DARKLING LORDS

Stand in a circle (as Cravex lands) as Lizrats rise out of the ground all around them.

DARKSTORM

These foul vermin are all over the place!

LEXOR

looks up at his empty standard.

LEXOR

My power is spent.

CINDARR

holds up his standard.

CINDARR

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

ON CINDARR'S STANDARD

The Devil-Dog pops out and SNARLS.

ON THE LIZRATS

They look at this thing with fear.

CINDARR

motions to the dog.

CINDARR

Get 'em!

THE DOG

charges -

A GROUP OF LIZRATS

who flee.

HIGH ANGLE - THE SWATH

The Devil-Dog cuts a swath through the Lizrats and -

THE DARKLING LORDS

run through the swath.

ON THE DEVIL DOG

it snarls and nips, and the nasty creatures take off.

Finally, the Devil-Dog de-materializes and the Darkling Lords stand amidst a cratered plain...

DARKSTORM

There is the Wizards' Gaol.

DARKSTORM'S POV - THE WIZARDS' GAOL

The door is still visible despite the earthquake and cratering. It looks like it's a couple hundred yards away.

EXTREME LONG SHOT - THE PLAIN

CRAVEX

We must move quickly before the Innundation.

Then, in the distance, we hear a gurgling and rumbling.

THE DARKLING LORDS

Run like hell across the field as -

ON THE HORIZON

we see a tidal wave rushing over a mountain range...

... It crashes over the range, floods a town, and keeps coming.

ON THE DARKLING LORDS - CLOSER

They run along, sometimes showing incredible jumping powers as they go over rocks and long jump craters.

DARKSTORM

We must get there before the wave.

ON LEXOR

a real cheerful fellow.

LEXOR
Because, what follows is darkness.

THE CHASE - INTERCUT

The tidal wave rushes across the plane, nearly getting them.

All of the Darkling Lords reach the hill that the Wizards' Gaol is in and climb up it.

They almost reach the doorway, and safety, but -

The Tidal Wave STRIKES!!!

Water floods the scene!

ON THE DARKLING LORDS

They are thrown around like bubbles in a sink.

ANGLE ON THE DOOR TO THE WIZARD'S GAOL

It still isn't flooded.

DARKSTORM

is caught in the swirling water.

DARKSTORM
Help me!!!

ON VIRULINA

She looks over at him.

VIRULINA
What do I get for it?

ON DARKSTORM

He's about to go under. He still holds the crystal ball, though.

DARKSTORM
Anything! But hurry, I can't swim!

ON VIRULINA

She laughs.

VIRULINA

Then it shall be fun to watch you go under.

LEXOR

swims to her.

LEXOR

I agree! But we need him to save us.

ON VIRULINA

She transforms to a Shark and -

ANOTHER ANGLE

Swims towards Darkstorm.

DARKSTORM

looks at her and screams.

DARKSTORM

(SCREAMS)

DARKSTORM'S POV - VIRULINA IN SHARK MODE

The swims up and her gaping Jaws FILL THE SCENE.

CUT TO:

INT. THE WIZARDS' GAOL

A bunch of Wizards, FALKAMA and MERKLYNN included, sit around with skinny, treacherous looking WEAZASKWEEZA who has a ridiculously long nose and the wizard BOGAVAS who is dressed in a hoaky wizards' costume. As well as about four or five others who we might find use for in some later episode.

They are playing a magical game of cards where nobody deals, but everybody pulls cards out of the air and tries to beat the other guys card.

MERKLYNN

Jack!

Weezaskweeza flashes his card and --

WEAZASKWEEZA

Ace!

-- tries to take the pot.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Bogavas grabs his wrist.

BOGAVAS
Let's see it.

Weazaskweeza turns it over, and it is indeed a deuce.

WEEZASKWEEZA
I must have made a mistake.

FALKAMA
You were trying to cheat us! The hand is mine.

MERKLYNN
Not so fast. What have you got?

Falkama begrudgingly turns over his card. It's an eight.

FALKAMA
So I tried to bluff.

MERKLYNN
It is all right for us to cheat each other in cards, but there is one thing we must agree upon in the future. We will never allow magic to fall into the hands of a non-wizard again.

ALL
(AD-LIB)
Here here!

Suddenly, there is a LOUD CRASH and we HEAR the sound of something large and wet coming down a stone stairs.

ANGLE ON THE CELL DOOR

It crashes open, and a shark rips through.

BOGAVAS

turns and looks.

BOGAVAS
(unruffled)
They have a unique way of bringing us our dinner.

ON THE SHARK

Darkstorm jumps out of the mouth, and the Shark turns back into Virulina.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Darkstorm runs over to Merklynn.

DARKSTORM
You must help us, Merklynn! I summoned the
sacred secret spell! The Darkness is coming.

MERKLYNN

takes the crystal ball and then turns back to the card game..

MERKLYNN
After this hand.

DARKSTORM

is frantic.

DARSTORM
But the Darkness is coming.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Merklynn turns back to Darkstorm.

MERKLYNN
No it isn't. The sacred, secret spell
is a "fail safe" device to protect Wizards
in case their magic should fall into
ordinary hands.

DARKSTORM
What are you talking about.

MERKLYNN
(explaining)
Well... Any mortal, thinking he has
caused destruction to the world will
race to return the crystal orb
to it's rightful owner.

He holds up the crystal ball.

MERKLYN (CONT'D)
Which is exactly what you have done.

ON DARKSTORM

He looks at Merklynn, completely puzzled.

DARKSTORM
What about the destruction!

ON MERKLYNN

MERKLYNN
It will right itself.

CUT TO:

EXT. PRYSMOS - SAME TIME

We see everything going backwards at incredible speed.

THE TIDAL WAVE

rolls back over the mountain.

THE LIZRATS

dig themselves back into the ground.

THE FIREBALLS

shoot up from craters, leaving the ground unscathed.

INT. THE LICENSE PLATE FACTORY

The fireballs rise up and leave and the Spectral Knights are still frozen.

THE EARTHQUAKE

moves backward, and Iron Mountain is rebuilt.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE WIZARDS' GAOL

Merklynn sits before Darkstorm.

MERKLYNN
As of now, Darkstorm, you are on your own.

If you are imprisoned, I will not release you. Expect no favors from me, and do not consider trying to release these other Wizards.

He turns.

ANGLE AROUND THE ROOM

the other wizards are gone.

MERKLYNN
Drat!
(to Darkstorm)
You are a great deal of trouble.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LEORIC'S COUNCIL ROOM - ZONING MEETING.

In this scene, we will see a rewind starting with Witter Quick delivering his message, and then flying back out the door, and Leoric going back to the "zoning meeting."

When we have returned to the Zoning meeting we will replay some of the earlier dialogue.

ECTAR

We are only proposing to build a barracks,
not a discotech...

DANDIFIED LAWYER

Yes, but my clients concern is valid. Young
men do tend to be noisy.

ECTAR

I resent that, my troops are well disciplined.

GROUCHY LADY

Your troops are impudent -

Leoric's gavel BANGS on the table.

LEORIC

I think we can resolve this issue without
resorting to name calling.

(pause)

Ectar, may we have a moment in private.

ON THE TABLE

Ectar and Leoric get up and walk through a door.

INT. A HALLWAY

The two Spectral Knights look at each other and laugh.

LEORIC

If somebody had told me two years ago
that I'd be worried about a zoning issue -

ECTAR

I know... What ever became of the days

of high adventure and magic.

LEORIC
They'll return. I'm sure of it.

∴
DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE COUNTRYSIDE - SAME TIME

A wagon rolls along. PUSH IN on the driver. It is Weezaskweeza.
He smiles an evil smile.

FADE OUT:

END EPISODE 7