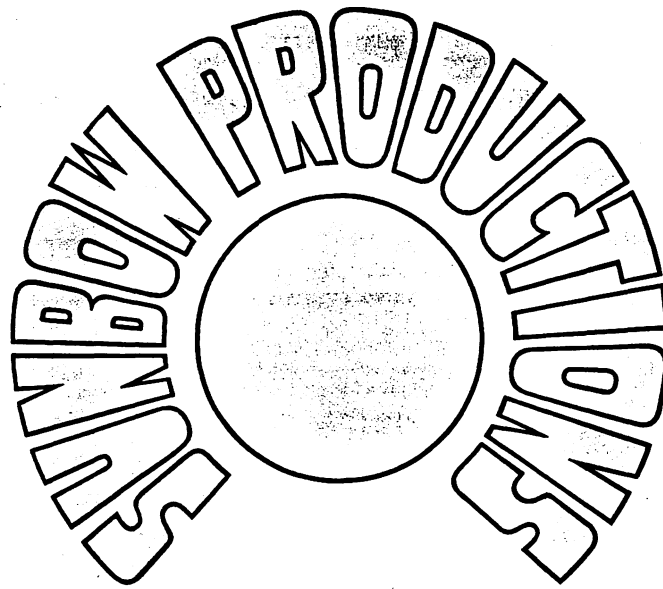


Flint



VISIONARIES

"HONOR AMONG THIEVES"

(script)

Written by:
Flint Dille

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VISIONARIES

"Honor Among Thieves"

FADE IN:

EXT. IRON MOUNTAIN

A fair sky hovers over the mountain which holds the throne of magical power on Prysmos.

MERKLYNN (V.O.)

For carrying out-

PUSH IN AND

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE SHRINE - SAME TIME

The Spectral Knights (not wearing their helmets) stand before Merklynn.

MERKLYNN (CONT'D)

Your mission with such distinction,
I award you -

MERKLYNN

holds up a beautiful glowing jewel which is about the size of a football. For the time being, it glows red, like a ruby. It is known as -

MERKLYNN (CONT'D)

- the Crystal of Detection.

ECTAR

crosses his arms.

ECTAR

This has the foul scent of bribery.

ARZON

nods in agreement.

ARZON

Yes, we must beware of the seduction of
jewels and gold.

MERKLYNN

looks downright irritated.

MERKLYNN

(annoyed)

Please allow me to present you with the gift before you refuse it. This crystal is not a jewel.

CLOSE ON THE CRYSTAL

It flashes green.

MERKLYNN (CON'T)

-- it the ultimate burglar alarm. All you need do is place it in New Valarak -

BACK TO PREVIOUS ANGLE

MERKLYNN (CONT'D)

- and it will warn you of the approach of any person who intends to do evil.

ON THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

Ectar frowns.

ECTAR

I am suspicious of this...
DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEW VALARAK - LATER

ESTABLISHING SHOT: We should see the gate, so that we are well aware of how people get into and out of New Valarak. It is basically a great gate guarded by a couple of soldiers who kind of keep an eye on the people going through. Maybe slightly more formal than airport security.

ARZON (O.S.)

Show a little faith, Ectar.

PAN to the Castle and

PUSH IN:

INT. LEORICS' THRONE ROOM

Leoric sits around the great table with the usual cabinet members.

ARZON

I am sure the crystal will work. Why would Merklynn give us something that doesn't work.

Suddenly, we hear a BEEPING and The Crystal starts flashing.

CLOSER ON THE CRYSTAL

We see the outer gate of New Valarak projected in the crystal. A very sinister looking man rides up to the guards. The old man is pretty hoaky looking: he has long flowing grey hair, a whopper nose, glasses and crooked teeth

Leoric peers into the crystal.

LEORIC

We now have our first chance to test the crystal.
Learn his identity.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE GATE OF NEW VALARAK - MOMENTS LATER

Two Valarkian Guards hold the Hoaky man.

HOAKY MAN

This is a violation of my rights.

Ectar steps into shot and pulls on the man's beard. Whoosh, it comes off.

ECTAR

How do you explain this fake beard.

HOAKY MAN

Beats shaving, doesn't it?

Then, Ectar pulls on the Hoaky Man's nose, and PAAWHAP! It is a theatrical nose, and comes off in his hands.

ECTAR

Who do we have here?

(theatrically)

Why if it isn't the famous jewel thief Racious Debraug.

HOAKY MAN

Who tipped you off?

ANGLE ON ECTAR AND FERYL

Feryl turns to Ectar.

FERYL

No question about it. That crystal really works.

ECTAR

That's what worries me.

Suddenly, we hear the ROAR of the Capture Chariot's engine not far away, and the two knights turn.

WHAT THEY SEE - THE CAPTURE CHARIOT

Rolling down the street.

LEORIC
Feryl... Ectar... Follow us! The crystal has warned us of something.

CUT TO:

EXT. AN ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

The Capture Chariot is parked next to a grungy back alley. It is cluttered with trash cans, dumpsters, abandoned vehicles and other sundry places where they will be shortly seeking concealment.

THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

step down the alley towards a manhole.

Then, the Manhole lid starts to lift.

LEORIC

gestures to the Other Knights.

LEORIC
Hide. Let us see what emerges.

The Spectral Knights run quickly from shot as the CAMERA PUSHES IN on -

THE MANHOLE LID

rises up, and we see a the familiar head of REEKON emerge from it.

He looks around.

REEKON
The coast is clear.

MORTDREDD (O.S.)
Please use me as a Step, Darkstorm...

DARKSTORM (O.S.)
Quiet...

Then, we see Darkstorm, Cindarr, Cravex, Lexor, Virulina and finally Mortdredd emerge.

ANOTHER ANGLE - FAVORING DARKSTORM

As he surveys the street.

DARSTORM

Good... The Spectral Knights expect nothing.

LEORIC

emerges from a murky corner, his whip drawn and his helmet on.

LEORIC

Wrong again, Darkstorm. The crystal of detection warned us of your approach.

THE ALLEY - ASSORTED QUICK SHOTS.

The Other Spectral Knights emerge wearing their helmets, they are fully readied for combat.

CRYOTEK

rises out of a pile of trash.

WITTER QUICK

slides down a rain gutter.

ARZON

drops from a roof.

ECTAR

pops out of the trunk of the abandoned car.

GALADRIA

rises out of a barrel.

DARKSTORM

looks around.

DARKSTORM

Cindarr! Summon the Power of Destruction.

ON CINDARR

He looks up at his staff.

CINDARR

By nature's hand, by craft, by art, what

once was one, now fly apart!

ON DARKSTORM'S STAFF

The Demon Dog pops out of the staff and ROARS!!!

LONG SHOT - THE ALLEY

The Demon Dog roars and spits fire.

DEMON DOG
(ROARS)

His mouths takes a bite out of a building.

THE FRENZY - QUICK CUTS

Leoric dives through a window and instant before the Demon Dog's paw ENTERS SHOT and gouges it out.

Witter Quick runs down the alley...

... The Demon Dogs' fire breath follows him.

Suddenly, Witter Quick turns in to a Cheetah and takes off.

ON THE DEMON DOG

Then, as quickly as he came, he vanishes.

HOLD on the alley (which is now more of a pile of rubble than an alley), and the Spectral Knights emerge.

LEORIC

walks up to the manhole...

DARKSTORM (O.S.)
We've lost the element of surprise. Return to the castle!

Cryotek joins him, and they listen for a moment.

Then Cryotek picks up the manhole cover and -

LEXOR (O.S.)
It stinks in this sewer!

CLAAANG!!!

- drops it over the manhole.

ON THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

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They are gathered in the ruined alley.

CRYOTEK

Luckily Cindarr's beast only succeeded
in knocking down a pair of derelict buildings.

FERYL

Do not say that so loud, or Darkstorm will
send you a demolitions bill.

ON LEORIC AND ECTAR

They remove their helmets and sheath their weapons.

LEORIC

Well, I guess we better get back to the
botanical committee meeting.

ECTAR

Frankly, I'd rather be fighting the Darkling
Lords.

ON THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

walking away.

LEORIC

Wouldn't we all.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LEORIC'S THRONE ROOM - LATER

The Spectral Knights are addressed by the head of the
Botanical Committee. (NOTE: I think we ought to have fun
with their costumes. Maybe they are dressed like flowers
with collars that are like daisies or something).

BOTANICAL CHAIRMAN

Since the city is now fully protected by
this crystal, the Security Budget ought
to be cut in order to build the New Botanical Garden
that many citizens have wanted so badly.

Ectar and Cryotek

seem to wince.

CRYOTEK

At the risk of seeming tactless, I would
like to humbly suggest that this is the stupidest idea
I have ever heard.

A BOTANICAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

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this one's a withered old bag.

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Leave it to the military to request more money.

THE BOTANICAL COMMITTEE

we see the five members with the chairman in the middle.

BOTANICAL CHAIRMAN

I move that we use our extra funds to build
the botanical garden.

The BOTANICAL COMMITTEE

cheers.

BOTANICAL COMMITTEE

(AD-LIB CHEERS)

More flowers/less swords.
More roses/less lances
More Daisies/less maces.
More petunias/less kaboomayas.

LEORIC

stands up.

LEORIC

Thank you. I think you've made your position
very clear.

ON ECTAR

He looks squarely at the camera.

ECTAR

I realize that you have the power to override me,
but let me tell you of something that happened before
the cataclysm when -

FLASHBACK

EXT. NEW VALARAK BEFORE THE CATYCLISM

It is a technological city. We should have some fun showing
the skyscrapers that are now castle walls, and other
familiar things we can find. It might even be nice to show,
somewhere in this sequence, the buildings we saw torn down.

ECTAR (V.O) (Cont'd)

New Valarak was a technological city, and I was a
Police Detective.

ANGLE ON A BANK

It should look like a modern bank. Maybe it should be called the "first city bank."

Then, we push inside, to show a swanky security system that might look like the technological equivalent of the Crystal.

(By the way, I think we should show as many of the other Visionaries as we can in FLASHBACK.) CINDARR was a construction worker. VIRULINA was a news anchor woman. FERYL and ECTAR were pilots.

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

One of the city's banks installed what was believed to be the last word in security systems.

ANGLE ON IT'S MAKER

The Graduate Student of Visionaries will know right away that it's Reekon.

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

It's maker said it was fool-proof.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE BANK - NIGHT - ANOTHER VIEW OF THE MAKER

Now, we see the same guy, Reekon, dressed up as a thief. Then, as Ectar talks, we see 1) Reekon break into the bank. 2) Effortlessly open the vault, and then 3) we show trucks laden with the bank's assets pulling away.

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

Unfortunately, it's maker also turned out to be a thief. He did a mighty good number on us. Ripped off the bank and got clean away.

END FLASHBACK

INT. LEORIC'S THRONE ROOM

Ectar finishes his story.

ECTAR (CONT'D)

The point of this story, ladies and gentlemen, is that you can never rely on a security system.

ON THE BOTANICAL COMMITTEE

They watch him.

ECTAR (CONT'D (O.S.)
You must have security people.

CLOSER ON THE BOTANICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

He looks at Ectar in awe.

BOTANICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
So what happened to this fellow?

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. A MUSEUM - IT PROUDLY ANNOUNCES A JEWEL EXHIBIT

We see people pouring in to look at it.

INT. THE MUSEUM

We see what appear to be whopper jewels displayed on mannequins. PUSH IN on one of the Mannequins.

As Ectar speaks (V.O.) we DISSOLVE to NIGHT. We see Reekon approach the Mannequin (which is some kind of a princess) he cuts open the display case with a glass cutter and reaches in.

ECTAR (V.O.)
As the crime was perfect, we had no clues, so I set a trap of my own.

Suddenly, the Mannequin comes to life, grabs his hand and pulls off his mask. It is Ectar.

ECTAR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The trap worked and I got my man.

EXT. A POLICE PHOTO SESSION - HARRY RECKON (REEKON)

It is a standard mug-shot deal.

ECTAR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The thief was none other than the Darkling Lord Reekon. Shortly afterwards, he escaped from jail and thus began the most infamous crime wave in the history of Valarak.

END FLASHBACK

INT. LEORIC'S THRONE ROOM - SAME TIME

The "Botanical Garden Lobby" sits with their arms crossed.

BOTANICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
Well, Ectar. Your story is most amusing, but,

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alas, it is not persuasive. I move that the security budget be cut and the botanical garden be built.

A BOTANICAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

BOTANICAL COMMITTEE MEMBER
More flowers/less swords.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE BOTANICAL COMMITTEE

They join in.

BOTANICAL COMMITTEE
More roses/less lances
More Daisies/less maces.

ON THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

They look at each other in frustration.

BOTANICAL COMMITTEE (CONT'D) (OS.)
More petunias/less kaboomayas.

LEORIC
Yeah, we get the message.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DARKSTORMS' CASTLE - SAME TIME

Darkstorm, not wearing his helmet, and still covered in the muck from New Valarak's sewer system, flips through the pages of the book he got from Falkama in Episode 7. (See Design)

DARKSTORM
There has got to be some way to thwart that Crystal.

ON MORTDREDD

He stands obediently before Darkstorm.

MORTDREDD
Your great genius shall find one.

DARKSTORM

snaps his fingers with inspiration.

DARKSTORM
(delighted)
Ah... Here it is.

ANGLE ON THE BOOK

We see a picture of the Crystal, and then PAN OVER to show the cloak

DARKSTORM

The Crystal of Detection is a powerful way of detecting any enemy who approaches you.

BACK TO PREVIOUS ANGLE

DARKSTORM

- it's only fallibility is that it can easily be deceived by a Cloak of Concealment.

(snapping the book shut)

Now where do I find a Cloak of Concealment? Reekon! Mortdredd! Put out a call...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. VARIOUS AREAS OF PRYSMOS - VARIOUS TIMES

Here, we can use any neat BACKGROUND ART that we have given short Shrift to. The basic idea is that we see different Darkling Lords putting out the word that they are looking for a "Cloak of Concealment."

EXT. SOMEWHERE INTERESTING

Reekon whispers to an obvious "underworld" type.

REEKON

(whispers)

Let it be known that we are in search of "the Cloak of Concealment."

INT. A CAVE-LIKE PLACE

Mortdredd calls into the Darkness.

MORTDREDD

Darkstorm, Lord of the Veldt, Baron of the High Lands, King of the Riff and the Savannas.

VOICE FROM THE DARKNESS

Who did you say searches for the Cloak of Concealment?

MORTDREDD

Darkstorm, Lord of the....

He is splattered with filth.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DARKSTORM'S THRONE ROOM

The Darkling Lords are sitting around waiting for a response from their queries.

MORTDREDD

I know the answer shall come, Darkstorm
All we need do is be patient.

ANGLE ON Darkstorm

He is playing chess, using real subjects as pieces, on the black and white squares of his floor.

DARKSTORM

Move the Dark Bishop to take the white
Queen.

ANGLE ON THE CHESS BOARD

The Character dressed as the Dark Bishop steps towards the White Queen.

DARK BISHOP

Sorry about this.

THE WHITE QUEEN

A moment before the Dark Bishop reaches her, she is dropped through the floor.

WHITE QUEEN

AAAAHHHH!

Then, we hear the sound of CHICKENS SQUAWKING.

INT. A CHICKEN COOP

The Chickens GAGGLE around, then, the White Queen drops into shot, and feathers fly.

CUT TO:

INT. DARKSTORM'S THRONE ROOM

Darkstorm is honked.

DARKSTORM

This game grows tiresome!

ANGLE ON A WINDOW

We hear a terrible SQUAWK and see an ugly black bird show up in the window.

TERRIBLE BIRD

I know where a Cloak of Concealment can be found!
(SQUAWK)

DARKSTORM

turns in his chair.

DARKSTORM

Tell me bird, where is it?

ON THE TERRIBLE BIRD

TERRIBLE BIRD

Not so fast, slick. He wants a big price.

DARKSTORM

is interested.

DARKSTORM

Name it.

THE TERRIBLE BIRD

lets out a SQUAWKING LAUGH.

TERRIBLE BIRD

Fifty T-Bones, One hundred juicy Flanks,
three-hundred Rib-Eyes and all the condiments
you can muster.

DARKSTORM

is stunned.

DARKSTORM

I am to pay a meat ransom?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DARKSTORM'S CASTLE - LATER

An incredibly large open-air "meat wagon" sits in front of Darkstorm's castle. It is piled high with steaks. Then, there is another truck filled with vats labelled "catsup", "steak sauce" etc. He points to the two wagons as he talks.

BUTCHER

Well, the steaks are here and the condiments are in there.

DARKSTORM

Good. Send me a bill.

BUTCHER

Sorry... Cash and carry only. That comes to three thousand gold pieces.

DARKSTORM

(GASPS)

Three thousand gold pieces.

BUTCHER

Flanks are hard to come by nowadays.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE DARKLING LORDS

We see them all standing around, waiting to leave on their journey.

DARKSTORM

Mortdredd... Pay the man.

MORTDREDD

rifles around in his pocket.

MORTDREDD

I've saved up my allowance for two years, Darkstorm and it isn't half enough.

ON THE OTHER DARKLING LORDS

PAN DOWN them as they speak.

CINDARR

Me, Cindarr broke.

CRAVEX

If your last check to me had cleared, I might be able to help!

VIRULINA

I am sorry, Darkstorm, but I am still waiting for some blackmail money to come in.

REEKON

I am a mercenary, not a banker. Now make

good or I take off.

ON DARKSTORM AND THE BUTCHER

Darkstorm is big embarrassed.

DARKSTORM
Perhaps I can arrange a loan.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE JUNGLE - LATER

ESTABLISHING SHOTS: Like everything else in this show, the Jungle should look familiar enough that we recognize it as a jungle, but it can be populated with all sorts of strange plants and creature.

The Darkling Lords trudge along carrying the steaks and vats of condiment on what basically appear to be stretchers. All save Darkstorm, who fans himself while they walk.

We should see the TERRIBLE BIRD flying in front of the Darkling Lords and issuing an annoying SQUAWK.

TERRIBLE BIRD
Over here, dummies!

MORTDREDD
How far are we from our rendezvous,
Darkstorm?

The Darkling Lords

trudge along, wearing their helmets.

DARKSTORM
I know not, we're following that miserable
bird.

LONG SHOT - THE DARKLING LORDS

As they walk along, there is a very foreboding development. The enormous head of something that looks like a whopper of a Venus Fly Trap rises over the jungle and looks down on them.

LEXOR
I hate this bug infested jungle!

CINDARR
I love it here. This jungle
is my home.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE JUNGLE

Another "fly trap" appears above them.

DARKSTORM

If this is your home Cindarr, how come you don't know where you are?

HIGH ANGLE - THE DARKLING LORDS

We realize that they are surrounded by the "Venus" fly traps.

CINDARR

There have been many big development projects since I left

Suddenly, the giant MEAT-EATING PLANTS swoop down to chow them down.

ON CRAVEX

He looks up to see -

A GIANT MEAT-EATING PLANT

coming towards him.

CRAVEX

You idiot, Darkstorm, we are being attacked.

THE DARKLING LORDS

dump their steaks and condiments and draw their swords as the big heads drop INTO SHOT.

TERRIBLE BIRD

Die! Morons!

VIRULINA

Dump the condiments. I don't want to taste good as they eat us!

As it looks like Darkstorm and the rest are about to become plant food we -

FADE OUT:

END ACT 1

ACT 2

FADE IN:

THE JUNGLE - SAME AS BEFORE

The Darkling Lords, still wearing their helmets, battle the plants.

ASSORTED SHOTS OF BATTLE

Virulina whacks away at one of the plants with her weapon. Suddenly, the plant wraps his head around her waist.

DARKSTORM

runs over and hacks the stalk of the plant. Goopy green stuff spews out after him --

-- knocking him to the ground.

He looks up.

THE HEAD OF ONE OF THE PLANTS

is coming down after him, licking it's thorny teeth.

DARKSTORM

looks into his standard.

DARKSTORM

By what creeps, what crawls, by what does not,
Let all that grows recede and rot!

ON DARKSTORMS' STANDARD

We see the BEAST OF DECAY come to life and crawl out.

THE PLANT

sees this, and it's eyes bug out.

THE DECAY BEAST

wraps its wings around the plant.

DARKSTORM

Wither you rotten weed!

THE PLANT

decays hideously.

ANGLE ON CRAVEX

He is in deadly combat with the plant.

The DECAY BEAST ENTERS SHOT and wraps its wings around the plant, and the plant decays.

ANGLE ON THE PLANTS

We see more of them succumbing to the Power of Decay.

THE MEAT-EATER LEADER (O.S.)

Stop!!!

Suddenly, all action stops as we PAN OVER to an enormous plant which dwarfs all of them.

THE MEAT-EATER LEADER

I have the cloak you desire in exchange for the beef.

ON THE DARKLING LORDS

The Decay Beast disappears and Darkstorm's Standard is blank.

DARKSTORM

(whispering)

We're out of decay power, so play along with me.

(loudly)

Direct us to the cloak, and we will see if I shall honor my half of the deal as you so rudely violated yours.

THE PLANT

looks down on them and frowns.

THE MEAT-EATER LEADER

You must forgive my friends. They are still bitter after years of defoliation and plant poisons.

ON DARKSTORM

DARKSTORM

If you make me cry any more, you'll fog up my helmet. Now where is the cloak of concealment.

THE PLANT

points one of it's leaves.

THE MEAT-EATER LEADER

On the other side of those trees, you shall find a pile of fabrics we have rescued from travellers.

CUT TO:

THE CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER

Mortdredd hacks his way through the jungle while the others follow.

DARKSTORM

There is the pile he refers to.

He points.

THE PILE OF CLOTHING

It looks like somebody dumped a rummage sale right in the middle of the jungle.

THE MEAT-EATER LEADER

The one which reads Cookoo Cola is in fact the "cloak of concealment."

CRAVEX

picks up the "COOKOO COLA" jacket and looks up, annoyed.

CRAVEX

You mean to tell me that an ancient magic item has "Cookoo Cola" written on the back of it?

ON THE MEAT-EATER LEADER

He looks down.

THE MEAT-EATER LEADER

It was cleverly disguised during the age of science.

LEXOR

turns to Cravex.

LEXOR

(whispering)

Let us not forget that it was Darkstorm who lead us into this stupidity.

ANGLE ON THE CLOAK

While the others watch, Reekon dons this cloak.

REEKON
I do not feel invisible.

CINDARR

looks over.

CINDARR
You do not look invisible either.

DARKSTORM

turns to them annoyed.

DARKSTORM
It isn't supposed to make you invisible, it is supposed to allow you to slip past that darned crystal.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEW VALARAK'S GATE - DAY

A couple of guards are so engrossed in their "Go Fish" game that Reekon is able to walk right by them without being noticed.

GUARD #1
(REAL MACHO)
Gimme an ace!

GUARD #2
Go fish!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE CASTLE - MOMENTS LATER

Then, Reekon struts into the main castle.

CUT TO:

INT. THE CASTLE - SAME TIME

- and heads up the stairs nodding to a pair of Botanical Garden Lobbyists.

REEKON
Hello.

CUT TO:

INT. LEORIC'S THRONE ROOM

Then, with amazing audacity, Reekon walks into the empty throne room where a tour is just winding up.

TOUR GUIDE

And this is the table where many of the important decisions of our government are made.

(pause)

And I'll bet you thought this was for dinner parties...

(Haw Haw)

Yes, even in the distant future and on alien planets, tour guide humor is as low as you can go.

Reekon waits behind and bags the famous Crystal. Then, getting a good snicker out of this, he tucks it under his arm and heads off.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A STREET IN NEW VALARAK - MOMENTS LATER

Reekon walks down the street with a botanical lobbyist.

BOTANICAL LOBBIEST

I tell you, Ectar, when you see the bright red of the geraniums and sniff the delicate aroma of the honeysuckle you will know you did the right thing.

ECTAR

looks into the distance and points.

ECTAR

Hey, wait a second!

WHAT HE SEES

Is Reekon walking down the street carrying the jewel like a football.

BOTANICAL LOBBIEST

Oh, it is probably a participant in one of those violent sports.

ECTAR

starts running.

ECTAR

It's Reekon, and I'll bet that's the jewel
under his arm!

REEKON

sees Ectar coming after him!

REEKON

Ectar!

THE CHASE - TRACKING

Ectar runs after Reekon.

ECTAR

I'm gonna put you away once and for all.

As Reekon runs, Ectar turns into a fox and chases him.

REEKON

runs towards a fire escape -

REEKON

Help! Help! A mad fox!

When he nears the fire escape, he tosses the jewel up to a
landing, and jumps up.

Ectar, jumping, bites the jacket.

A piece of it rips off, and the fox falls to the ground.

THE FIRE ESCAPE

Unable to climb, Ectar, in fox form, barks after him.

REEKON

climbs the fire escape.

REEKON

Save me!

ANGLE ON THE FOX

He still BARKS. Then, suddenly, two guys run INTO SHOT with
a net and throw it over him.

The Fox then transforms back to Ectar and he looks up and
points.

ECTAR
He's getting away.

He tries to get up, but he's tangled in the net.

MAN #1
Ectar, if we'd known it was you we...

CUT TO:

EXT. THE GATE TO NEW VALARAK

The two guards are still playing "go fish."

GUARD #2
Give me a jack!

GUARD #1
Go fish.

Suddenly, Reekon, in Lizard form, with the Crystal in his mouth, runs past them..

GUARD #1
What was that?

GUARD #2
As long as it was going thataway, I don't care.

They go back to their game just as --

ECTAR

races out of the city.

THE CHASE - AGAIN

Ectar, in human form, chases the Lizard.

Finally, Reekon stops, and turns back into human form.

He is winded as Ectar runs towards him.

REEKON
I've escaped you again.

ECTAR

he stops in his tracks and draws his weapon.

ECTAR
That's not the way I read it.

Suddenly, a FIRESHRIKE shoots into shot and digs a crater in front of Ectar...

Ectar whirls around and looks up to see -

THE SKY CLAW

piloted by Mortdredd swoops into shot and picks up Reekon.

Then, it takes off in a blurr.

ECTAR

is left in the dust.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DARKSTORM'S THRONE ROOM - LATER

The gold is piled up, and the Jewel is sitting in front of him. The only problem is that the jewel keeps BEEPING.

Darkstorm
I am pleased...

THE JEWEL

keeps beeping... and beeping.

DARKSTORM (CONT'D)
But would be even more so if that infernal crystal would stop beeping.

VIRULINA

reads the ancient magic book.

VIRULINA
It says here that that if the crystal is turned upside down, it will detect anybody who is pure of heart that might be approaching the castle.

Then, she steps over to the jewel and turns it upside down. Sure enough, it stops beeping.

DARKSTORM
Now, Lexor, what do you have to say of my rule. Not only have we neutralized New Valarak's security system, but the Spectral Knights will never be able to attack again. For we now have the Crystal of Detection!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LEORICS' THRONE ROOM - SAME TIME

Ectar and Cryotek sit before the much-shaken "Botanical Committee".

CRYOTEK

Thanks to your brilliant budget cuts, and foolish reliance on -

ANGLE ON LEORIC

He might agree, but he must appear to be fair.

LEORIC

Temper your words, Cryotek.

CRYOTEK AND THE BOTANICAL COMMITTEE

Cryotek lightens up.

CRYOTEK

Suffice to say that we are in a terrible spot.

ECTAR

holds up the piece of fabric he ripped off of Reekon.

ECTAR

And fortunately, you might be able to get us out of the spot you put us in..

He stands up and passes the fabric across to the Botanical Committee.

ON THE FABRIC

As the Botanical Members receive it.

ECTAR (CONT'D)

The thief's jacket was covered in a strange pollen, can you identify it?

ON THE BOTANICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

He pulls out a magnifying glass and looks at it.

FISH-EYE ANGLE THROUGH THE MAGNIFYING GLASS

He looks.

BOTANICAL CHAIRMAN

Yes... Yes.... I think this might well be pollen

from the Meateous Chompiti plant. An extremely rare meat-eating jungle plant.

ANGLE ON THE COMMITTEE

OLD BAG ON COMMITTEE

There are less than a dozen specimens left, and they are all found in -

COMMITTEE MEMBER

- Quiet Mabel.
(to Ectar)

What are your intentions with this precious plant specimen.

ON ECTAR

He's annoyed.

ECTAR

We simply want to see how it is connected to the jacket.

BACK TO PREVIOUS ANGLE

The Committee Members whisper to each other.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

You must promise that no harm will come to the plants before we tell you where they are.

ON ECTAR AND CRYOTEK

Cryotek is in serious danger of losing it.

CRYOTEK

Don't worry about the plants, worry about yourselves! Now tell us where the plant is or-

LEORIC

looks down the table.

LEORIC

Quiet Cryotek!
(patiently)
Now where is the plant?

ON THE COMMITTEE

They looks at each other, deciding whether to talk.

DISSOLVE TO:.

EXT. THE GATE TO NEW VALARAK - LATER

The Spectral Knights stand at the Gate. Ectar sits alone in the Lancer Cycle.

LEORIC

Are you sure you don't want the rest of us to come?

ECTAR.

ECTAR

No. It occurs to me that -

QUICK CUT TO:

INT. DARKTSORM'S CASTLE - SAME TIME

CLOSE ON REEKON as he "finishes" Ectar's statement.

REEKON

- Ectar and I have reversed our roles.

QUICK CUT TO:

EXT. NEW VALARAK - ECTAR

Ectar stands before the arched gate.

ECTAR

Now I am the thief...

QUICK CUT TO:

INT. DARKSTORMS' CASTLE

Reekon looks out an arched window.

REEKON

And I am the cop.

QUICK CUT TO:

EXT. NEW VALARAK - ECTAR

ECTAR

Ready yourself, Reekon.

QUICK CUT TO:

INT. DARKSTORM'S CASTLE - REEKON

REEKON

Come when you may, Ectar.

As the battle lines are drawn.

FADE OUT:

END ACT 2

ACT 3

FADE IN:

EXT. THE JUNGLE - LATER

The Meat-Eating plant munches down on dozens of steaks that are prepared for him by other plants -

MEAT EATER LEADER

Mmmm... That was one of the finest steaks I've eaten in a long time.

(MUNCHING)

Too bad we don't have any more cloaks of concealment.

(ugh as he realizes something)

The Meat Eater looks down, and as he does, the CAMERA PANS down to show that there is a hook arm at his throat.

It is Ectar's hook arm.

ECTAR

It is very hard to eat without a stem. If you don't have another cloak of concealment, where do I get one?

THE MEAT-EATER LEADER

He is still nervous.

MEAT EATER LEADER

I only had that one...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE ROAD TO DARKSTORM'S KINGDOM

Ectar cruises down a road in the Lancer Cycle.

ANGLE AHEAD ON THE ROAD

We see what looks like a hitch hiker. As the CAMERA pulls toward the hitchhiker, we realize that it's Arzon.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE LANCER CYCLE - TRACKING

It rolls slows to a stop. Arzon jumps onto the back.

ARZON

I can't tell you how pleased I was to be invited along on this mission.

ECTAR - TRACKING

He drives.

ECTAR

I would be less than honest with you
if I didn't tell you that I intend to use
you as a lure for Darkstorm.

ARZON - TRACKING

He smiles.

ARZON

Happy to be of some use.

ECTAR AND ARZON - TRACKING

ECTAR

You'll be captured.

ARZON

Fine.

ECTAR

Imprisoned.

ARZON

Fine.

ECTAR

Maybe tortured.

ARZON

Tell me something I didn't know.

ECTAR

shakes his head.

ECTAR

(to himself)

Oh, to be young and dumb again.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DARKSTORM'S THRONE ROOM

Reekon hovers over a scale Model of Darkstorm's castle.

In the following siege, I will avoid getting technical, and hopefully, the instructions will be easy to adapt. Remember too, that this castle is composed of contemporary materials and have fun with escalator for stairs etc.

REEKON

My traps have all been set. Assuming he can slip past the stone, he will attempt to climb the wall here... I will station Cindarr there to catch him.

CRAVEX

And when he slips past that idiot?

REEKON

Then the game begins.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE CASTLE -

We see the same place that Reekon pointed to in the map. Only now it's for real. Ectar and Arzon are crouched behind what was once a billboard advertising a sun-tan oil.

ECTAR

If I know how Reekon thinks I will think, he will position Cindarr behind that wall. Therefore, I want to you to arrange a diversion.

ARZON

turns.

ARZON

I know what to do.

He transforms into a bird and flies off.

CUT TO:

INT. DARKSTORM'S THRONE ROOM

The Crystal starts BEEPING.

ANGLE ON THE CRYSTAL

We see Arzon flying along.

REEKON

Cravex! Intercept the bird.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE CASTLE - SAME TIME

The Darkling Lords and their guards run out to get Arzon.

REEKON
Guards, prepare to shoot Arzon down.

ON ARZON

He flies over the city.

Suddenly, Cravex flies INTO SHOT.

ON ARZON AND CRAVEX

The two flying creatures hit each other.

ANGLE ON ARCHERS

They look up, their arrows poised.

REEKON
Ready... Aim...

ON LEXOR

He looks up in horror.

LEXOR
You'll hit Cravex.

REEKON

stands next to the archers.

REEKON
Awww! Too bad!
(to Archers)
Fire!

The Archers fire.

ON CRAVEX AND ARZON (BOTH IN BIRD MODE)

Their talons are locked and their beaks strike at each other.

Suddenly, a wave of Arrows flies INTO SHOT and pincushions them.

They fall OUT OF SHOT.

ON CRAVEX AND ARZON (TRACKING)

The two birds plummet down and STRIKE the pavement. Then, almost instantly, they turn into their human forms, and are, unhurt.

CRAVEX

is pissed off.

CRAVEX

What is the meaning of this!!! You could
have killed me.

ON ARZON

He tries to slip away.

Suddenly, Mortdredd grabs him from behind.

MORTDREDD

You're caught, bird.

ANGLE ON DARKSTORM'S CASTLE WINDOW

He holds the Crystal.

DARKSTORM

How do I shut this thing up?

ON REEKON, CRAVEX, MORTDREDD AND ARZON

They kind of look up, stupidly.

REEKON

What do you see in it.

CLOSER ON DARKSTORM

He looks into the Crystal and Sees Arzon standing with
Mortdredd.

DARKSTORM

I see Mortdredd and Arzon.

ON REEKON, ARZON AND MORTDREDD

REEKON

I guess we will hear it as long as
the Spectral Knight is in your castle.

ON DARKSTORM

He's honked.

DARKSTORM

Then let us flush him into the great abyss
at first opportunity.

ARZON

looks around.

ARZON

Don't you want to imprison, interrogate
and torture me first?

DARKSTORM

suddenly gets it.

DARKSTORM

You idiots! He is causing a diversion. Get
him up here now, and search the castle
for Spectral Knights.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE CASTLE WALLS

Cindarr, wearing his helmet, is guarding a wall.

CINDARR

Just try and get past me, Spectral Knight.

Suddenly, we see a hand tap him on the shoulder from behind.

Cindarr turns.

Bammola!

He's hit in the face.

Cindarr topples over the wall, and -

ANOTHER ANGLE

- into the moat.

ON ECTAR

He gets a good snicker out of this.

ECTAR
(SNICKERS)

CUT TO:

EXT. A HIGH TOWER - LEXOR

Lexor stands there, pretending to be looking for Ectar.

Then, he HEARS a fox's howl.

ECTAR
 (FOX'S HOWL)

ON LEXOR

He shivers.

LEXOR
 Hey, Ectar, you're giving me the creeps.
 Let's make a deal. I let you slip by me, and
 neither of us has any trouble. How's that
 sound.

LEXOR'S POV - THE TOWER

He looks around. this whole thing is shrouded by shadows,
 and the eerie atmosphere is not made any better by the
 presence of a whopper of a full moon.

ECTAR (O.S.)
 (FOX'S HOWL)

BACK TO PREVIOUS ANGLE - LEXOR

LEXOR
 You know I don't like Darkstorm. Come on,
 let's make it easy on both of us.

ANGLE ON THE MOON

Suddenly, we see Ectar in fox mode silhouetted against the
 moon.

ECTAR (O.S.)
 (LOUD HOWL)

ON LEXOR

He quickly turns into the Armadillo and scurries over the
 wall.

ON THE FOX

It quickly turns back into Ectar, and he walks to the edge
 of the wall.

Then, he lifts a small telescope to his eyes.

WHAT HE SEES

is Darkstorm's window. He sees Arzon being lead into the
 Throne Room.

Then, he whips out a long rope with a grappling hook at the end of it.

Before we know what he's doing we -

CUT TO:

INT. DARKSTORM'S THRONE ROOM - SAME TIME

Arzon stands on one of the Squares. Reekon and Mortdredd stand next to the series of levers that drops people through the floor. Darkstorm sits atop his throne.

DARKSTORM
(impatient)
Well... Drop him into the abyss.

ON REEKON AND MORTDREDD

They stand before the levers.

MORTDREDD
Excuse me, great Darkstorm, but we are having a small dispute over which lever drops into what...

REEKON
This dunderhead says that this -
(gesturing to a lever)
- is the right one. But I'm certain this is the one.

ON CRAVEX

He stands on a square.

CRAVEX
Then just pull it!

ON REEKON

He does it.

CRAVEX
drops through the floor.

CRAVEX
(falling)
You shall suffer for this!

ON REEKON

He shrugs.

REEKON
So you were right.

ON MORTDREDD

He reaches for a lever when -

KRAAASH!

DARKSTORM'S WINDOW

explodes open, and we see Ectar come crashing through it.

Then, without missing a beat, he runs across the floor and -
- grabs the crystal and throws it (O.S.)

ECTAR
Catch it!

MORTDREDD

pulls the lever.

REEKON
No!!!

ARZON

starts to drop.

The Crystal ENTERS SHOT, he catches it and drops.

DARKSTORM

rises from his throne.

DARKSTORM
Follow him!!!

MORTDREDD

runs over towards the square Arzon was on.

ECTAR

dashes OUT OF SHOT towards the levers.

ON REEKON

He is about to pull the levers.

Suddenly, Ectar races INTO SHOT and -

- blammo!

- decks him.

ON MORTDREDD

He turns and runs towards Ectar.

ECTAR

starts pulling levers.

ON MORTDREDD

squares open up all around him.

Finally, one under him does. He shouts.

MORTDREDD
(Shouts)

MORTDREDD - TRACKING

He drops into the sewer.

ON ECTAR

He still mans the levers.

ON DARKSTORM

He runs across the floor.

ECTAR

pulls a lever.

DARKSTORM

drops through the floor.

DARKSTORM
AAAAH!

DARKSTORM - TRACKING

We see him dropping into a deep abyss with a fiery pit below. He changes into his snail form and sticks to the side of the wall. Flames flicker under him.

Somehow, though, we know he'll survive.

ON REEKON AND ECTAR

They face each other off.

REEKON

Shall we fight to the death!

ECTAR

I see little point. In a strange way I think we need each other.

REEKON

Yes, where would the cop be without the crook to catch.

ECTAR

Or the rat without the trap to out-smart?

REEKON

It's like old times.

ECTAR

So who shall we say won the day?

REEKON

I stole the Crystal from you.
You stole it back.

ECTAR

I'd call it a draw.

REEKON

You always were the cleverest cop on Prysmos.

ECTAR

And you cleverest crook!

REEKON

Till we match wits again.

ECTAR

Or cross swords.

WIDE SHOT - THE THRONE ROOM

The Two Visionaries salute each other with their weapons and then walk away in opposite directions.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE SHRINE - LATER

The Spectral Knights are honked off with Merklynn.

CRYOTEK
Your Crystal is useless.

WITTER QUICK
Lab tests prove that any material made
of polyester can defeat it.

ECTAR
It's worse than useless, it's a liability.

MERKLYNN

waves them off with his hands.

MERKLYNN
Please accept my apologies. When I created
that Crystal, it was the age of Magic. I should
have kept better track of textile advancements.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE KNIGHTS AND MERKLYNN

MERKLYNN
I'll make it up to you. How would you like a
magical pest repellent...

THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

SPECTRAL KNIGHTS
(as one)
No.

ON MERKLYNN

Frowns, and holds up a wand.

MERKLYNN
Frankly, I don't blame you. How about a
magical food refresher. Just wave it over
spoiled food and...

THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

SPECTRAL KNIGHTS
(AS ONE)
No!

ON MERKLYNN

He shrugs.

MERKLYNN
Then how can I make amends.

THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS

LEORIC
We'll let you know when we really need something.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DARKSTORM'S BANQUET ROOM

The Darkling Lords sit around a large table.

DARKSTORM
Servants, present the dinner.

ANGLE ON THE DOORS

The servants step out.

CINDARR
What is for dinner.

ON DARKSTORM

He looks up.

DARKSTORM
Turnip stew, followed by cabbage steak.

ON CRAVEX

CRAVEX
Where's the beef.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE JUNGLE - THE MEAT-EATER LEADER MUNCHES AWAY

He's loving his steaks.

DARKSTORM
It seems that somebody has driven up
the market price, and we can't afford
it.

FADE OUT:

END