THE PASSION OF SIOFRA

Written by

Abby Denton

Based on the fiction works of Amanda Graham

FADE IN:

EXT. RURAL PUB - EVENING

A pastoral tavern. Preindustrial but not medieval.

SIOFRA (V.O.)

How about I sing for my supper?

INT. RURAL PUB - SAME

SIOFRA, an early-20s woman in comfortable clothing noodling on a guitar, straddles a bar, making gooey-eyes at a tittering WENCH, 30, behind it. FARMERS and LABORERS relax in tables around the floor.

SIOFRA

You like warriors? Adventure, intrigue... Sweat?

The wench nods enthusiastically. A FAT PROPRIETOR peeks out from the kitchen, drying a dish.

PROPRIETOR

She bothering you?

Siofra looks at the Wench, questioning, flirtatious, her tongue resting on her lower lip. The Wench shakes her head.

SIOFRA

You ever heard of Siofra Whelan, Swordarm of Fyrshala?

WENCH

The slut goddess?

SIOFRA

You better believe it.

Siofra begins to strum, singing a ballad, as the FIREPLACE in the corner begins to smoke and the scene transforms...

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

(singing)

In lands both far and bountiful Of which I'd like to sing Where flowered Alraunes of the wood Dethroned the rightful king... INT. THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

A stately throne room, full of banners, overrun by vines and plant life. In the corner of the room is another fireplace, blazing, providing the only light in the room.

The door is KICKED DOWN by SIOFRA WHELAN herself, her face in shadow.

WENCH (V.O.)

Alraunes?

A trio of ALRAUNES, green-skinned, half-plant half-woman creatures stir and awaken from mighty flower petals unfolding. They act more like strutting models than monsters as they try to intimidate Siofra.

SIOFRA (V.O.)

They're a kind of plant-womanvampire hybrid. Eat people. Nice hips, though.

The plant-women confer with each other as Siofra makes some obscene gestures with her hips. Their expressions sour and one runs at her, displaying mean thorns on her fingertips

SIOFRA (V.O.)

(singing)

Siofra battled tireless Expecting great reward The blooming monsters fell to her And to her mighty sword

Siofra begins to do battle, despite her disadvantage in number. She kicks the first flower girl who approaches her to the ground.

In shadow we see a second come at her waving a sword. Siofra runs her through with her own sword.

Siofra manages to suplex the third plant woman, who falls limp to the ground.

SIOFRA (V.O.)

(singing)

When all at once she felt a draw From battle to the bed The pheromones of enemies Were messing with her head

The first Alraune she kicked makes coquetteish gestures at her. Siofra is drawn, like a zombie, to her side, and is cradled in her arms.

They begin to make out.

SIOFRA (V.O.)

(singing)

The pollinating lady plant Loved stronger than a bull But Siofra girded her loins, Indefatigable.

WENCH (V.O.)

An encouraging rhyme.

SIOFRA (V.O.)

Propriety forbids an account of the following activity.

INT. THRONE ROOM - LATER

Siofra is now sweaty and her hair is a mess, but the Alraune appears to be dazed from ecstasy.

SIOFRA (V.O.)

(singing)

Deflowering the maiden fair Took only half an hour And then the tables turned again Siofra back in power.

Siofra stands up, lifting the plant-girl - her hands, we see, are now tied together by rope. She leads her like a suspected criminal in handcuffs.

INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

The plants have all been cleared away. A JOLLY OLD BEARDED KING and an ADORING QUEEN greet Siofra, bowing before them.

Siofra bids the queen step closer - allowing us to see her face, realizing that she is the woman singing the song - and whispers something in the Queen's ear. The king is upset.

SIOFRA (V.O.)

(singing)

The kingdom's gratefulness was vast Until one fateful day The king heard brave Siofra offffering his queen a - -

The song is interrupted by the sound of LAUGHTER.

INT. RURAL PUB - NIGHT

The clientele of the pub are in hysterics at Siofra's story.

WENCH

(giggling)

I did hear something of that story! That's why Siofra got exiled, huh?

SIOFRA

Yes, that's why I'm so short of - I mean, she's short of -

WENCH

You're a Knight of Fyrshala the Slut Goddess?

SIOFRA

I prefer "goddess of passion."

WENCH

I'm sure you do. I'm sure there's a lot of ways you prefer it.

She ensures Siofra follows every sultry movement of her lips.

WENCH (CONT'D)

Too bad I don't touch used goods.

SIOFRA

They all say stuff like that until they see me in action. What'll it take to get a free meal here?

WENCH

A lot more than big talk.

The door BURSTS OPEN. A TOWNIE runs in, breathless.

TOWNIE

There's trouble going on. In the square. Who's in the militia?

Siofra grins at the Wench and closes her guitar in its case.

SIOFRA

See you in a bit, toots.

She runs out of the door. We realize her guitar case has a sword in a scabbard strapped to it.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Three MILITIA MEMBERS, RON, PAULA, and GLAESER, in chainmail, advance on HELENA, 24, dressed like a slutty kind of ingenue. She's backing away from them, her arms up for protection.

HELENA

Hey, can't we all just get along?

GLAESER

Time for that's past, demon.

Glaeser moves closer to Helena, who screams, when Siofra enters the scene, tackling Glaeser to the ground.

She regains her footing and holds up her sword-and-guitar case.

SIOFRA

Stand down. I don't like to draw this if I can help it.

HELENA

I'm no good with the guitar either.

SIOFRA

The sword. I've slain dragons and ogres but I don't like spilling blood.

Paula pulls the guitar case out of Siofra's hands - Siofra only manages to pull her sword free - and throws the case to the ground. It shatters, with BROKEN GUITAR SOUNDS.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Do you have any idea how much that cost?!

PAULA

Get out of the way. We have business with the girl.

Siofra looks at Helena, sleazily.

SIOFRA

Me too.

Siofra and Paula run at each other. She CLONKS Paula on the head with the sword handle, sending her to the ground. Siofra holds the sword at Ron, daring him to try her.

Ron WAVES A COWBELL in the air. A few more MILITIA MEMBERS come running.

Siofra watches this confidently, but Helena grabs her by the hand and they run away.

EXT. BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

Helena and Siofra crouch behind a bunch of barrels, watching a TORCH-WIELDING MOB stalk down the main road.

SIOFRA

(whispering)

Was that the militia?

HELENA

Yeah.

(off Siofra's look)

I'm innocent. Helena.

They shake hands.

SIOFRA

Siofra Whelan. Swordarm to the goddess Fyrshala.

HELENA

I bet you are. Your goddess mind abetting wanted criminals?

SIOFRA

Depends what they did.

HELENA

I didn't do anything. I'm a demon. Non-practicing. I've never killed anybody. But once people learn I'm a succubus they always turn on me.

SIOFRA

I have a similar problem with succubi. They always turn me on.

(off Helena's look)

You were serious.

Helena stares at the empty main road and moves to stand.

HELENA

Shh. I think we have a clear shot out of here.

They creep out of the alley.

EXT. FARMLAND - DAWN

Roosters crow as the girls tiptoe through a hay field.

HELENA

Look, I'm grateful for the help, but you don't have to be a fugitive on my account.

SIOFRA

Hey, in for a penny, in for a pound. I'm not going to leave until I know you're safe.

Helena crouches in a hay bale.

HELENA

I'm safe. Go home.

Siofra thrusts her sword into the bale and sits next to her.

SIOFRA

I don't have a place either. I thought maybe we could travel together. For a while.

HELENA

I don't really keep company.

SIOFRA

Well, how about a trial? If you don't like it, we'll split up.

HELENA

Deal.

Helena smiles, enjoying relative peace with another person.

SIOFRA

So Helena, that's a pretty unusual name.

HELENA

For a demon family it's normal. Your name is the weird one.

SIOFRA

Siofra? Really?

HELENA

In the infernal tongue your goddess Fyrshala is known as Betsy.

SIOFRA

You're screwing with me. (off Helena shaking her head)

I have a lot to learn about infernal tongues... Teach me?

HELENA

Gordon Bennet...

SIOFRA

Another demon?

HELENA

I'm a succubus. Do you know how I found that out? The first and last time I tried to boink someone I was picking bits of soul out of my teeth for weeks. You'll forgive me if I'm not...

She continues to speak, but not a word is heard as Siofra stares at her, ignoring her and fantasizing.

SIOFRA (V.O.)

I've given my body to many people, but never my soul. For a roll in the hay, how much of who and what I am would I have to surrender to you? You are more beautiful than...

SIOFRA

If you sleep with two succubi at once, do they both get your soul?

Helena scowls at this. A pitchfork strikes Siofra and she jumps to her feet, YELPING and clutching her bottom. Helena laughs at this.

An OLD FARMER is standing at the hay bale, holding the pitchfork.

OLD FARMER

Hey, who are you? I told you kids to stop sneaking into my fields for a roll in the...

Siofra and Helena run away, giggling like schoolgirls caught en flagrante delicto.

SIOFRA

Who're you laughing at, huh?

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

Siofra holds her sword at the ready as they walk down an empty path.

SIOFRA

So I'm on a holy quest to the Cathedral of Fyrshala to the east. To make my vows official.

HELENA

You serve a goddess without her permission?

SIOFRA

It's complicated. I was meant to head there right after I converted but I got distracted by a girlfriend and then a war and by the time the war ended I kind of forgot where it was.

HELENA

Pity she's not the goddess of pathfinding.

SIOFRA

More a goddess of distraction.

She sees a LEWD LITHOGRAPH sticking out of the underbrush and steps toward it.

HELENA

Really, Siofra? Really?

Siofra plucks the picture up. Ropes emerge from the dirt path, entangle her feet, and HOIST her in the air like a pinata.

HELENA (CONT'D)

Elves! Are there Elves in these woods? I'll get you down, we need to hide.

Helena starts looking around and finds a length of rope holding Siofra up. She starts trying to cut it.

SIOFRA

Relax. They'll be too close for us to escape either.

An ARROW shoots into a tree near Helena. She ducks to the ground in fright.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Now that's just uncalled for! Leave her alone!

ENDORPH, an Elf man, tall and rugged, steps out of the woods.

ENDORPH

State your purpose in intruding on Elf lands.

SIOFRA

Lookin' for a way east, to the Cathedral of Fyrshala. Hey, you nerds ever heard of Diana, Elven swordmaster of the southern islands?

HELENA

Don't talk to Elves like this, Siofra, they will kill us!

ENDORPH

Hey, you know Diana? No shit?

SIOFRA

She only taught me everything I know.

He chops Siofra out of the trap and lets her down.

ENDORPH

What do I do with the demon?

SIOFRA

She's with me. You guys got lunch cooking?

They walk down the path, Helena trailing in bafflement.

EXT. ELVEN CAMP - DAY

A couple of ELVES dressed more like highwaymen than anything spin a big boar on a spit. MILLIA EZRAND, a short human girl, stirs a big pot.

Endorph, arm around Siofra like a brother-in-arms, introduces them to Millia.

ENDORPH

Millia here is taking care of the stew, if you're hungry.

He stalks off. Millia pours bowls of stew for them.

HELENA

So, a human girl who ran away with the elves to cook for them?

MILLIA

(embarrassed)

I'm not a cook. Endorph is training me to be a great warrior one day. But... all he does is make me do laundry and clean up the camp.

SIOFRA

(laughing)

They do that up here too? When I studied with Elves in the south I was cleaning skivvies for a year before I got annoyed enough to try to fight my boss.

MILLIA

Did you win?

SIOFRA

No, she kicked my butt. But then she respected me. She started training me for real.

MILLIA

You mean he's just been wasting my time here?

SIOFRA

I mean, Diana and me, we also, uh, we didn't just exercise our fighting muscles-

MILLIA

I'll give him a piece of my mind.

Millia leaves her stew boiling and walks away.

After they're sure she's gone, Helena starts trying to sneak vegetables into her rucksack as Siofra looks at a sword left lying in the ground. She hefts it and compares it to her own sword, then leaves her own in its place.

HELENA

You're just going to give up your sword?

SIOFRA

This one balances better for parrying. A hunter would do better with my old one.

HELENA

I mean, you don't fight with the Blessed Sword of Stephen or whatever?

SIOFRA

I like it simple. I don't keep anything for long.

This sours Helena's mood slightly as she watches Siofra draw a map with her finger in the dirt on a nearby table.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

So, Endorph says we have to cross a river here, and then the Cathedral is a day or so southeast...

HELENA

I'll admit, I'm impressed you got us in here. Elves don't like no one.

Siofra studies the map. Helena looks at Siofra warmly.

SIOFRA

I'm not all talk, you know.

HELENA

You're not.

Millia flies through the air and lands on the table, BREAKING it. She lies there, barely moving.

MILLIA

I'm okay.

SIOFRA

Did you win?

MILLIA

I did not.

Siofra lifts Millia's head to study the part of her map on the table beneath it.

MILLIA (CONT'D)

Can I come with you?

SIOFRA

I thought you'd never ask.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Siofra, Helena, and Millia cross a big bridge across a mighty river. Millia is holding most of the heavy bags.

HELENA

Are you sure it's a good idea bringing her?

SIOFRA

Sure I'm sure. She needs to build strength, and the Elves gave us plenty of supplies to carry. It's a symbiotic relationship.

HELENA

I don't think those are healthy.

SIOFRA

Relationships?

HELENA

Symbiotic ones.

SIOFRA

I wouldn't really know. Mine all end before they can earn any adjectives.

EXT. END OF BRIDGE - DAY

They approach the other end of the bridge. A TROLL GIRL, tall and muscular and with a big underbite, climbs up from under it to stop them.

SIOFRA

The Elves didn't say anything about a Troll.

TROLL

RELINQUISH YOUR FIRSTBORN, THAT I MAY EAT.

MILLIA

What are we gonna do?

Siofra takes her sword from Millia and steps forward. Millia watches in awe. Helena watches with concern.

SIOFRA

Why do you want our firstborn?

TROLL

I SINISTAR. I HUNGER.

SIOFRA

There's food everywhere. Look, there are rhubarbs beneath your feet, berries in every bush. Small, innocent forest creatures with much more meat than human infants.

TROLL

HUMAN INFANTS, OR YOU WILL DIE.

Siofra throws her sword to the ground.

SIOFRA

Look, I don't want to fight if I don't have to. Let's be friends.

The Troll tries to club Siofra in the head with her big meaty fist. Siofra dodges it and grabs her arm.

She is thrown to the side of the path.

HELENA

Siofra!

Helena raises her arms and begins to wave them. The Troll stares at Helena, as if in a daze.

Siofra recovers and grabs the Troll's arm.

SIOFRA

Hey! Succubus! Don't magically seduce my sparring buddy!

HELENA

Because you're not going to seduce her?

SIOFRA

Because I don't need magic.

Helena stops and the Troll straightens up. The Troll tries to thrash but Siofra climbs up, onto the Troll's back, arms around her neck. The Troll quivers. Millia is on the edge of her seat. Helena can't watch.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Do people get this close to you often?

TROLL

No.

SIOFRA

Sounds lonely.

The Troll begins to cry and Siofra's wrestling hold transforms into a romantic squeeze.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

We have somewhere to go, but... Think about letting people get close more. You won't always get hurt.

MILLIA

(whispering)

Do you think she's going to be a good teacher?

HELENA

(whispering)

Depends what you want to learn. I wonder what the monster equivalent of mono is.

Millia and Helena start quickly moving past, into the woods, as Siofra and the Troll share a tender moment.

SIOFRA

I think your underbite is wicked

She kisses the Troll on the cheek and leaves as the Troll blushes bright red.

EXT. CAMP - EVENING

They sit around a campfire. Siofra paces. Millia sharpens a knife. Helena warms herself by the fire.

SIOFRA

Endorph said we should reach the Cathedral tomorrow. Now, this is bigtime Fyrshala country. If someone comes on to you, don't get too offended. If you get in trouble just let them know you're a visitor and you probably won't receive a single heresy-spank.

MILLIA

(alarmed)

A what?

SIOFRA

A... heresy spanking. I thought all religions had those.

MILLIA

I'm an agnostic. And I think I will continue to be.

SIOFRA

You'll never make it as a holy knight that way.

MILLIA

Holy knights can be agnostic!

Siofra sits next to Helena.

SIOFRA

Cold?

HELENA

No.

An awkward silence.

SIOFRA

Thanks for helping with the Troll.

HELENA

I wonder how that Troll feels tonight.

SIOFRA

Dunno. There aren't a lot of Trolls in this country.

HELENA

I bet she's lonely.

Siofra pokes at the fire.

EXT. CATHEDRAL TOWN OUTSKIRTS - DAY

The trio can see the Cathedral of Fyrshala, a grand construction with a few blocks of buildings around it. Siofra is now wearing a bright red cloak with an emblem of flame, Fyrshala's holy symbol, on the back.

SIOFRA

It's quiet. I wonder if there's a service today.

HELENA

What are services to the Goddess of Passion like, exactly? Do you sing hymns, or moan?

MILLIA

What fluid are you baptized in?

SIOFRA

It's not passion like that.

They pass a broken window in front of a big statue of THE GODDESS FYRSHALA, a squat warrior-woman with multiple arms, dressed in only a few strips of cloth, in a lewd pose.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Well, it is, but not exclusively. She's a goddess of fire and excitement. That's why our warriors are the best in all the land.

MILLIA

I figured you fought hard to avoid spankings.

SIOFRA

Only at first. Then you build up calluses. And the services usually have bells...

Millia squints, parsing this. They look to the Cathedral's bell tower, reduced to rubble as if by wrecking ball.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Something's up. Wait here.

She takes her sword from Millia and runs ahead, leaving her friends in what looks increasingly like the scene of a struggle - broken glass, debris across the streets.

INT. CATHEDRAL - DAY

The place has been torn apart. Pews smashed and overturned, statues broken. The carpets appear singed.

Siofra kicks the door open.

SIOFRA

What's going on? (yelling) Where is everybody? She steps forward and almost trips over a shattered statue - Fyrshala's head rolls under a standing portion of pew.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

I am Siofra! Swordarm of Fyrshala! If you're alive, come out!

CABIRIA (O.C.)

Demons!

Peeking out from a chamber behind the altar, Siofra sees CABIRIA, a hungry woman, scantily-clad. It is tempting to simply describe her as a babe.

Siofra comes running across the sanctuary.

CABIRIA (CONT'D)

Be quiet! They'll return soon.

She pulls Siofra into the back chamber.

INT. NARTHEX - SAME

Siofra looks around a makeshift living quarters. Cabiria waves her in. She nods to a group of 10 or 12 more BABES of various genders, dressed immodestly.

CABIRIA

I am Cabiria. Former vestal. Now I'm just another husk waiting to be bled dry by the vampires and demons who destroyed our city.

SIOFRA

Who? Why?

CABIRIA

A servant of the dark. A beast of Hoethmarr. She is known as Harold.

SIOFRA

I am sworn to guard Fyrshala and all innocents.

CABIRIA

That's exactly why you must leave. She plans to destroy all of our sect. a prophecy said she would be invincible to all but a knight of Fyrshala. And a whole town of us couldn't beat her.

Siofra looks around. She waves awkwardly at the half-naked Babes. One waves back.

SIOFRA

Are you all that remain?

CABIRIA

No. Some escaped. They headed south, to the coast. Supposedly Fyrshala appeared to the faithful there, in the past.

SIOFRA

Then let's go.

Cabiria puts a gold-bound book into Siofra's hands.

CABIRIA

This will tell you the route. We will stay, and distract the demons.

SIOFRA

I can't leave you in their clutches against your will!

A Babe coughs and crosses to Siofra, lifting her thigh against Siofra's tummy.

BABE

Well, uh, we're not actually here against our will.

CABIRIA

Look, you'll understand when you're older. Sometimes a demon intent on consuming your essence is all that will do.

BABE

Although it's been a while since we had a tumble with a human!

CABIRIA

Who wasn't one of us. Uh, I don't suppose you'd be interested in...?

Siofra drops the book, looks around and begins kissing Babes.

SIOFRA

So tell me more about this essencesucking thing... INT. ARMORY - DAY

Helena and Millia cool their heels inside a somewhat ruined armory, looking at plate mail and hammers.

MILLIA

I don't understand it. Fyrshalan warriors are meant to be brilliant, but all their armor has bare midriffs and thighs. What holy knight wears a chainmail bikini?!

Helena lifts a chainmail bikini and holds it against herself - then frowns, as her chest is inadequate for the bikini.

HELENA

I imagine you would fight a lot more frantically when you're not protecting any of your organs.

MILLIA

Except the organs Siofra cares about.

HELENA

I wonder what she'd be like if she didn't follow the goddess of sluts?

Millia looks at her slyly.

MILLIA

Does someone have a crush?

HELENA

No! Ew. Why, do you?

MILLIA

Not really. I could see it. She's certainly got swagger.

HELENA

I hate swagger. All talk to hide an empty heart.

They are interrupted by the RUMBLE OF HORSES and AN UNEARTHLY ${\tt ROAR}$.

HAROLD (O.S.)

CABIRIA! FETCH HITHER THE HAREM!

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

Siofra is pushes through a trap door into a dark tunnel. The book is dropped after her. She is sweaty. She straightens her hair as a Babe leans down.

BABE

These tunnels lead all over town.

She blows a kiss and shuts the door. Siofra squints in the darkness.

She takes a few steps, then CLONK - she trips.

SIOFRA

Hello, what's this?

INT. ARMORY - DAY

Helena and Millia hide behind a big anvil when they hear a DOOR OPEN.

They exchange frightened looks, then Millia peeks out. A trap door in the middle of the room is pushing open. Siofra pops her head out.

SIOFRA

Jackpot!

She climbs out, holding a fancy red suit of armor. Millia and Helena watch her.

She sets to work on it with a hammer and a set of tongs, removing its midriff, so it is just a breastplate, some leg covering, and a little ornamentation.

MILLIA

We're fine, by the way. From the horde of demons we just watched ride into town, I mean.

Siofra jumps, then smiles when she sees them and begins stripping and adorning her new armor.

SIOFRA

Cool! We gotta head south and look for survivors. Take what you want and let's get going. INT. CATHEDRAL - DAY

HAROLD the demoness, 8 feet if she's an inch, with huge boots and bright blue skin and horns, enters the same way as Siofra, kicking down the door. She's trailed by a bunch of demons, much less humanoid than Helena.

Harold sees the Fyrshala head Siofra tripped on and kicks it against a far wall of the sanctuary, where it shatters.

Cabiria comes running out and drapes herself across Harold's shoulders.

CABIRIA

Harold! Baby! I missed you so much!

They kiss, Harold with the lip-curled confidence of a stone butch in a roomful of desperate lipstick femmes.

HAROLD

Missed you, too, baby...

She rests a hand on Cabiria's lifted thigh and sniffs the air.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

You boinked a human.

CABIRIA

Just one of the other babes.

HAROLD

No, no... I don't smell any of you on her...

(sniffing more)

Lots of other species though.

(wrinkling her nose)

She could have given you diseases.

CABIRIA

I don't know what you're talking about! Harold, come on!

Harold begins to strangle her, then stops - they smile amorously at each other.

CABIRIA (CONT'D)

I love when you're cruel to me.

HAROLD

I love when you--

All of a sudden, she drops Cabiria and STOMPS a surviving piece of furniture.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

I can't just let it slide! I'm not a cuckold! Cabiria! Who did this!

CABIRIA

She, um, she had a red cloak. She said she was heading west, she was just looking for supplies.

HAROLD

Her name.

EXT. HILLS OVERLOOKING CATHEDRAL - DAY

Millia, Helena, and Siofra, now in her armor, creep up the side of a hill, south of the Cathedral, off any beaten path.

HELENA

So you knew there were demons - bad demons - coming, and you didn't come running to warn us?

SIOFRA

I told you to stay hidden. There wasn't much for me to do.

HELENA

You sure took your time doing it.

SIOFRA

The Cathedral is the demons' home base. I had to do what I could there quickly and then run to safety - to you. You were safe, it's not like they were expecting visitors. I bet they don't even know we were there.

HAROLD (O.S.)

(roaring)

SIOFRA!

The group as one ducks behind a thicket. They stare down the valley in fright.

A corps of DEMONS ON HORSES charge to the west.

SIOFRA

She didn't sell us out. That wonderful pervert. Let's move, I want to reach cover by sunset.

EXT. CAMP IN WOODS - EVENING

Millia patrols the outside of a clearing in some thick woods. Helena and Siofra sit on a log, reading the book Siofra found.

SIOFRA

I couldn't figure out any of the glyphs. Is this demon?

HELENA

It's, uh, infernal, yeah. Or arcane, anyway. It looks like a minor work of Alicia the Prophet.

SIOFRA

Alicia? I swear, magic people have the weirdest names.

HELENA

Quiet, Siofra. It traces a path from this region to the south coast. Pilgrims of Fyrshala used to walk it, centuries ago, seeking the goddess's blessing, for her power to vanquish demons.

Millia, on the perimeter, jumps when she sees a woman in a robe, SUZY, watching her.

MILLIA

Who are you? What are you doing here? Are you a demon?!

SUZY

No! You're safe. I'm a... local.

MILLIA

Is there a settlement near here?

SUZY

No. Oh, no. I sleep in bushes. But I heard you and I wanted to warn you to build a fire.

MILLIA

We're trying to lie low from demons.

SUZY

They don't enter these woods at night. Just promise me you'll keep your fire burning until sunrise.

MILLIA

Okay.

Suzy thrusts an armful of kindling into Millia's arms.

SUZY

Swear to me!

MILLIA

Okay, I swear!

Millia starts building a fire as Helena and Siofra study the book.

HELENA

You make it sound like Harold is content living in a ghost town. She just doesn't seem like a bad enough demon to deserve whole prophecies.

SIOFRA

Are there any prophecies about you?

HELENA

No. None that I know of. Maybe there is one. "Cast out by humans, unworthy to demons. Will kill those she loves and then die alone."

SIOFRA

You're not alone. As long as you want to travel with me, I'll be there for you.

HELENA

I'm not sure if I'm more scared you'll throw me away or seduce me and die in bed.

SIOFRA

I'd die with a smile on my face.

Helena shivers.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

I knew you got cold! Here.

Siofra throws her cloak over Helena, and then draws her close.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

You sure the fire is safe, Millia?

MILLIA

Yeah. They're nowhere near.

The fire begins to spread across the kindling.

EXT. CAMP IN WOODS - NIGHT

They're asleep. Siofra and Helena spoon. A TWIG CRACKS in the woods away from the fire, which is almost dead.

Millia shoots bolt upright.

MILLIA

Siofra? Are you awake?

Siofra already has her sword in hand as she scrambles to her feet.

SIOFRA

Show yourselves.

This wakes Helena, who rolls over and watches from under Siofra's cloak.

We hear a GROWL from the woods.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Millia, get the fire back to a roar. I'll take care of the wolf. Or is it a coyote?

Millia gets to work. But as she steps forward, a WEREWOLF, massive, black, leaps at her. Siofra dives and slices at it. It YOWLS furiously.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

The fire!

Siofra intimidates a SECOND WEREWOLF with her sword, flashing in the dim fire.

A THIRD WEREWOLF approaches. The three surround Siofra, who GROWLS right back at them, scaring the first Werewolf enough that it retreats into the woods.

She runs Werewolf 2 through with her sword, but can't get it loose in time as Werewolf 3 gets her on the ground, and takes a big bite out of her side.

The fire blazes more brightly now and Millia waves a small log as a torch, getting it off of Siofra.

Helena runs to Siofra and helps her get nearer to the fire.

Millia tries to intimidate the last Werewolf better, but she's a little too tentative about sticking her arms forward to be too effective. She ends up throwing the log, which gets it to run.

HELENA

You really love the hero thing, huh? Marching off to find refugees you never met. Saving me.

SIOFRA

I just do what comes natural. You're beautiful.

HELENA

You're delirious. I'm the ugliest succubus in the world.

SIOFRA

Boobies.

HELENA

Sleep. And wear more effective armor next time.

SIOFRA

My love.

Siofra lifts a hand and strokes Helena's cheek.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

(weakly singing)

My love is brave and many-charmed My love is fair and true Your bronzed skin and muscled arms I only think of you

(Note: I am, as you see, an inadequate poet, and with casting it's impossible to predict. The only essential point is that Siofra describes her goddess, who looks nothing like Helena.)

HELENA

That's a hymn, isn't it? To your goddess?

Siofra begins to convulse. Helena tries to comfort her.

HELENA (CONT'D)

It's okay. I know you're not well.

Helena SCREAMS as she hears BONES CRACK. Millia rushes over and watches as:

Siofra transforms into a werewolf, a black shadow, and hisses at the fire. She runs into the night.

Millia and Helena crouch by the fire, watching the darkness.

The GROWLS of several werewolves turn into SPITTING and SCRATCHING, POUNCING and GNASHING.

Then there is a pause. Then, PANTING, rhythmic, bestial PANTING, and then the entire group of werewolves begins to HOWL AT THE MOON as if reaching the climax of orgasm.

Millia and Helena look at each other, uncomfortable.

EXT. CLEARNING - MORNING

Siofra, still quite wounded, lies naked and entwined with Suzy, the druidess from earlier, also naked but not wounded, Siofra's sword across her lap.

Millia and Helena come upon them.

HELENA

I guess you keep your personality as a werewolf.

Suzy wakes up and sees them. She scrambles to her feet and struggles to carry Siofra. Millia helps.

SUZY

We need to get her to Moonglow. Before another night falls.

EXT. MOONGLOW'S CABIN - DAY

A little ivy-covered cottage sits deep in the woods. A rabbit hutch is set up to the side.

MOONGLOW (O.S.)

You were right to get her to me fast.

INT. MOONGLOW'S CABIN - SAME

MOONGLOW, a medicine woman, shoulders and neck laden with amulets and vegetables, inspects Siofra, lying catatonic on a cot, as Helena, Millia, Suzy, and 2 other GUILTY-LOOKING DRUIDS look on.

MOONGLOW

I shudder to think where she would have been after another transformation.

(to the Druids)

Now give me some space. You've done enough to help these poor travelers for one night. Do four Our Planets and seven Hail Gaias.

Suzy and the Druids excuse themselves.

HELENA

Is she going to be okay?

MOONGLOW

I've exhausted my healing knowledge. Whether she'll wake up is between her and the gods now.

Millia reaches into a bag and retrieves a small STATUE of FYRSHALA carved into a stone. She places it in Siofra's twitching hand.

MILLIA

She was protecting us. If I was stronger...

HELENA

She'd still have put herself in harm's way. She's not the kind of person who backs down from a fight.

MILLIA

Maybe she'd win them.

Moonglow rubs an orange peel along Siofra's brow.

MOONGLOW

Your friends are by your side, Siofra. Because they know you're going to make it, you little bubeleh.

Siofra's eyes twitch.

SIOFRA

(muttering)

Thank you...

They all share overjoyed expressions.

MOONGLOW

How do you feel?

SIOFRA

Sleep...

They chuckle, tensions eased. Helena is the first to frown - she looks at Siofra's hand, clutching the religious icon.

She is stroking her forefinger along the religios icon's groin.

HELENA

Glad you're still the same woman.

Helena excuses herself. Millia follows.

EXT. MOONGLOW'S CABIN - SAME

Helena pulls on Siofra's cloak.

MILLIA

I don't blame you for needing some air.

HELENA

Millia, you seem like you have a good head on your shoulders.

MILLIA

Well, thank you.

HELENA

I hope one day we meet again. Without your teacher anywhere in spitting distance.

MILLIA

You're going out alone?

HELENA

I'll be fine. It's how I've lived since I was fifteen.

MILLIA

You know she'll be heartbroken.

HELENA

We'll live.

Millia watches Helena walk into the woods, then goes back inside.

INT. MOONGLOW'S CABIN - SAME

Moonglow is frowning at Siofra's unconscious body when Millia returns.

MOONGLOW

That's weird.

MILLIA

Not my favorite thing to hear from a doctor.

MOONGLOW

Look.

She does. Siofra has sprouted black dog ears.

MILLIA

If anyone would find a silver lining, it's her. I wonder if she has a dog-tongue.

MOONGLOW

It should go down. Usually the wolf aspects that sprout while the body is rejects them are astral, invisible...

MILLIA

So you cured the werewolf thing?

MOONGLOW

Yes. Now she just needs to heal her wound.

MILLIA

I wonder what she's thinking of right now.

Siofra's nose twitches. Her mouth opens and she PANTS slightly.

INT. SIOFRA'S INNER WORLD - TIME BETWEEN TIMES

In a swirling void of nothingness, Siofra happily crouches on the ground with a big stick in her mouth, playing fetch with a human. She relinquishes the stick to the human.

The human is none other than FYRSHALA, the multi-armed, bronzed goddess, scratching Siofra's head.

FYRSHALA

Good girl, good girl!

SIOFRA

I love you, Fyrshala! I live to serve.

FYRSHALA

(as if replying to a dog)
Awww, well "bark woof woof" to you,
too, sweetie! Thank you for
traveling so far to me!

SIOFRA

I've traveled so far. It's been years.

FYRSHALA

I know, you kept getting distracted jumping bones. You're on the right track now.

She throws the stick into the distance. Siofra bounds after it on all fours.

FYRSHALA (CONT'D)

After you reach my sacred land, then you can see my sacred parts!

Siofra turns back and cocks her head, confused.

FYRSHALA (CONT'D)

Boobs!

INT. MOONGLOW'S CABIN - DAY

Siofra happily opens her mouth, doglike, her tongue lolling out.

MOONGLOW

Probably dreaming of chasing bunnies.

MILLIA

Bunny girls, maybe. Hey, if she's part-dog right now, does she enter heat?

MOONGLOW

What? Don't be disgusting.

MILLIA

MOONGLOW

You're worried about your friend. It's okay. Lots of people get preoccupied with sex, especially when they're dealing with a crush.

MILLIA

I don't have a crush.

MOONGLOW

Okay. You know, I do have potions that help tamp down intrusive thoughts about sex.

MILLIA

I only have intrusive thoughts about sex when I'm traveling with Siofra!

Siofra quietly LAUGHS from the bed.

Millia HUFFS in annoyance.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Harold the tough demon holds the Troll Girl from earlier against a tree, her hand on her neck. Her cronies laugh.

HAROLD

So, you say she only came our way? You didn't see her go back?

The Troll shakes her head, weakly.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

You ugly, useless monster. Why did I put you in charge of the bridge if you can't even stand guard all day?

IAN, a slightly wussier demon, steps forward, finger raised.

IAN

Unless Cabiria lied.

Harold is filled with rage and drops the Troll to the ground.

EXT. MOONGLOW'S CABIN - DAY

HAROLD (O.S.)

(roaring)

SIOFRA!

Millia, feeding the rabbits in their hutch, jumps at the sound.

INT. MOONGLOW'S CABIN - SAME

Siofra jolts awake and sits up.

SIOFRA

What's going on?

Moonglow looks up from her desk.

MOONGLOW

You're awake!

SIOFRA

How long was I out for?

MOONGLOW

Three days.

Millia runs in, holding a sword.

MILLIA

Siofra! The demons are close.

MOONGLOW

Nah. She sounded a day or two away. But she's really mad. Probably mad enough to enter werewolf territory.

SIOFRA

There are werewolves near here?!

Moonglow helps Siofra to her feet and gathers her things.

MOONGLOW

You'll be back at 100% soon. Any side-effects you experience will die down shortly.

SIOFRA

Side-effects?

As she turns to ask this, an INVISIBLE FORCE extending from her groin causes several glass objects to fall off of Moonglow's desk.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Where's Helena?

MILLIA

She left.

Moonglow crouches to pick up her broken equipment.

MOONGLOW

It would appear one of your temporary side-effects has given you an invisible, uh, wolf, uh...

Siofra crouches by Moonglow. Moonglow reacts as if hit in the face by the INVISIBLE FORCE, grimacing.

SIOFRA

She knew I was gonna get better, right?

MOONGLOW

Look, everyone deals with fear differently. Maybe she couldn't watch your pain.

Siofra stands and approaches Millia, who backs away, partly because she is being pushed by a 15-inch INVISIBLE FORCE from Siofra's groin.

SIOFRA

Why did she leave? And why does standing here feel so good?

Millia backs away from the INVISIBLE FORCE.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Oh, it's gone now.

MILLIA

We don't have time to play explainthe-magic-invisible-wolf-penis actually that was faster than I thought - we need to hit the trail. Thanks, Moonglow.

SIOFRA

I don't know who you are, but thank you.

As Siofra attempts to exit the room, the INVISIBLE FORCE extending from her groin is caught on Moonglow's hip.

Finally Siofra manages to turn to the door. The INVISIBLE FORCE springs over, bumps over a plant on the other side of the door.

EXT. MOONGLOW'S CABIN - SAME

Millia carries luggage onto the forest path. Siofra follows, walking quite confidently now, like a man who knows he is in the best shape of everyone in a locker room. Moonglow waves goodbye.

MOONGLOW

The wolf stuff should be all out of your system by tomorrow! But until then, be careful! The guardian of the south woods, Lanzo the silver wolf, can be quite territorial. Just show deference and bow and you'll be fine.

SIOFRA

I hope there will be wenches when we reach the south coast.

MILLIA

Thank you!

EXT. EDGE OF THE DESERT - DAY

They reach a point where plants grow sparse. Siofra walks a few steps ahead of Millia.

MILLIA

Helena's notes say there'll be a day or two of arid land, but after a canyon it's a pretty straight shot to our destination.

SIOFRA

I miss Helena.

They hear a GROWLING from behind them.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

I care about you, too, Millia, but my feelings for Helena are different. Relax.

She turns and realizes Millia is bowing before LANZO, a great and mighty silver wolf.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Oh, hey, are you Lanzo?

MILLIA

(from her prostrate
 position)

Siofra, bow! Show respect!

Siofra places her hands on her hips confidently.

SIOFRA

I'm not sure I could do that comfortably right now.

MILLIA

Is your, um, uh, still there?

Lanzo bows. Millia watches this, mouth agape.

SIOFRA

Huh. Guess he senses my power and natural wisdom.

MILLIA

Or he's scared of your magical wiener.

SIOFRA

Come, Lanzo. We've much to do.

Millia stares at Siofra in mute horror.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Traveling! Come on, Millia, I wouldn't do that with Lanzo.

Millia gathers herself and stands, joining Siofra, walking with her arm around Lanzo's neck.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Lanzo's a boy.

Millia looks to the heavens in a vague agnostic prayer for strength.

EXT. CLIFF - EVENING

They look down over a massive crevice in the desert. No easy path down in sight.

SIOFRA

The demons have horses. I wish we had horses.

A big DIRIGIBLE of a design that should seem flightless flies overhead, propellers SPUTTERING.

MILLIA

We're sure they only have horses?

SIOFRA

Nah, those are pirates.

Millia looks for cover as the craft approaches, flying low overhead. Siofra watches unafraid.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Yeah, I'm sure they're eager to land to steal our single bag of oranges and dog.

They duck to keep balance as the WIND PICKS UP beneath the dirigible. It flies lower, landing somewhere to the right of the bottom of the cliff.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

That must be their camp.

MILLIA

Let's steer clear of the pirates.

Siofra walks in that direction anyway. Lanzo WHIMPERS and tugs at her sleeve.

SIOFRA

I'm sorry I called you a dog. You're a big, strong wolf.

She sees a STONE STRUCTURE behind Lanzo and realizes what he's signalling. They cross to it as a trio.

ARCANE SYMBOLS decorate the structure - it's a door leading to a flight of stairs headed deep into the earth.

MILLIA

Helena could have read what these symbols mean.

Siofra barges into the passage, now annoyed.

INT. RUINS - SAME

Torches illuminate a broad passage at the bottom of the narrow stairs. Statues of hands line the walls.

Siofra enters, followed by Lanzo and a very reluctant Millia. They look around the chamber.

SIOFRA

Is this a crypt?

MILLIA

I think it's a passage down. But...

SIOFRA

The hands? This looks like an old shrine to Fyrshala. Or to one of her aspects.

She walks past a hand making the "Shocker."

MILLIA

No. Who lit the torches?

SIOFRA

What? All spooky caves have torches.

MILLIA

Yes, but they're not going to stay lit for however long this shrine has been out of operation.

SIOFRA

You're over-thinking this.

They stop. In front of them, a SLIME GIRL, with blue skin, gauzy clothes, soaking hair, dripping ooze, is setting a torch in place on a wall. She looks at them like she was caught doing something naughty.

MILLIA

Another of life's mysteries solved.

SIOFRA

Hey, sweetie! We're just passing through. Is there a door out at the bottom of this cliff?

The Slime Girl hisses at them.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Millia, I can't really fight, what with my...

She wiggles her hips. Millia steps forward with a sword ready. She wields it clumsily, afraid to get hit.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Don't be afraid of your sword, sheesh.

She hits the Slime Girl with the blade of the sword. It passes straight through her - she doesn't even flinch.

Millia assesses this and tries to stab her. Again, it passes through her, but she doesn't mind. The Slime Girl laughs and advances on her, grin on her face.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Oh, relax, would you? You're living a fantasy right now. Usually animate slime is shaped like blobs or cubes. Harder to get into.

The Slime Girl gives Millia a big soggy hug. Millia thrashes and SCREAMS. The sword falls out of the Slime Girl's back with a CLATTER.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

(to Lanzo)

Honestly, she's taking this for granted. There's some people who'd sell their magic invisible wolf penis for a tumble with an honest-to-gosh Slime Girl.

Lanzo shakes his head, disappointed, like a human discussing the kids these days. Millia manages to squirm away, now dripping with slime, looking at Siofra with reproach.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Relax, will you? She just hungers for living fluid.

Siofra approaches the Slime Girl, the INVISIBLE FORCE from her groin making an indentation in her side. The Slime Girl grows flirtatious and gestures for Siofra to follow her.

EXT. PIRATE CAMP - EVENING

The dirigible from earlier has landed. It's big enough to house a football team, but no more. Assorted SCURVY DOGS of assorted genders work on its exterior, hammering out dents from bullets.

SUSAN, the captain, late 40s and tough as can be, pulls meat from some scraggly bones by the fire alongside her HUSBAND and first mate, kind of a wuss.

SUSAN

I don't like coming this far north. Those people on the cliff could have been with the demons.

HUSBAND

We could take them.

SUSAN

Hmm. Sleep with one eye open, anyway.

HUSBAND

(lewd)

That's if we get much sleep done.

He moves in for a kiss, which she ignored in favor of shouting to the crew.

SUSAN

Make sure you're aligning the flight stick properly this time! I don't want another emergency landing!

Susan's husband looks at his feet, disappointed.

EXT. MOONGLOW'S CABIN - NIGHT

Harold and her demon gang stalk around the outside of Moonglow's cottage. Cabiria and a few other babes sit on horses with demons. Ian, the speaking demon from the Troll scene, comes out of the house.

IAN

No one in there.

Harold roars and PUNCHES a glass window out.

HAROLD

I can smell her here! She was HERE! Now there's nothing but that weird wolf!

Behind the rabbit hutch, watching this, stands Moonglow, wearing the pelt of a wolf. (She is clearly a human. Harold is just stupid.)

INT. RUINS - NIGHT

Millia sits against a wall, awkwardly silent as Lanzo watches her. THE SOUND OF A HAND MOVING THROUGH LIQUID, making and popping bubbles and vacuums, is constant and rhythmic, echoing down the hall.

MILLIA

Could we ride you? If we get in trouble?

Millia reaches up to Lanzo's neck. He pulls away, disgusted with the idea.

MILLIA (CONT'D)

(hurt)

Oh, sure, fine.

INT. NESTING CHAMBER - SAME

Siofra reclines, on Cloud 9, surrounded by lounging Slime Girls, all blissed out.

Siofra is holding a DIRTY SHIELD with a distinctive pattern on it.

SIOFRA

This thing looks strong. You find the coolest treasure in dungeons.

She waves the shield in front of her groin, pauses, then does so with her hand.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

(happily)

It's gone! I wonder what it took.

The Slime Girl under her arm begins to rub her tummy, which suddenly bloats.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Oh. Uh. Look, I'll be a good, uh, dad? I mean, just like the thing that knocked you up, I'll have tenderness, ferocity, endurance... I won't be invisible though. Or abandon you. I'm a good mom.

Siofra's eyes widen as the Slime Girl contorts in discomfort.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Do all slime pregnancies go this fast? Or is this wolf magic?

She rises to her feet.

INT. RUINS - SAME

Millia purses her lips and looks at Lanzo.

MILLIA

So, have you ever been to the theater?

Siofra comes running, with what sounds like AN ARMY OF TINY, YAPPING DOGS echoing down the hall behind her.

Siofra climbs on Lanzo's back.

MILLIA (CONT'D)

Oh, you'll let her ride you, but not me?

Siofra grabs Millia's hand and they careen down the halls.

Behind them, around a corner, a TINY BLUE YAPPING SLIME-DOG skitters and loses its footing, hitting a wall and going SPLOOSH, splashing fluid everywhere. More SLIME-DOGS come.

SIOFRA

They have a taste for human flesh. We have to run.

Millia looks back in horror as they run.

MILLIA

There are hundreds of them! What happened in there!

SIOFRA

I proved I don't need Helena to be a great warrior.

MILLIA

Sure, Siofra.

EXT. PIRATE CAMP - NIGHT

They burst out of a door hewn in stone in the bottom of the cliff. They see a fire burning in the distance - the pirates.

MILLIA

We have to warn those people!

SIOFRA

(yelling)

Hey! There's an army of monster dogs with a taste for flesh coming! I don't know how they got there!

Susan stares at this, then fires a FLARE GUN into the air.

SUSAN

Crew! In the ship!

Her husband stares in awe at what is coming running at them.

Susan grabs him by the arm and pulls him into the ship.

INT. DIRIGIBLE COCKPIT - SAME

Susan climbs into the cockpit, big enough to host a wrestling match, and starts pressing buttons. ENGINES ROAR.

It starts to rumble along the desert ground, gaining momentum.

SUSAN

Always be ready for anything and you'll live a long time.

Suddenly she SCREAMS as a giant wolf bounds into the cockpit, Lanzo, along with Siofra and Helena, who climb off of him.

Siofra and Millia look with concern out of the door.

MILLIA

This defies all known laws of physics. There was not that much fluid in the ruins.

EXT. PIRATE CAMP - SAME

The dirigible SHUDDERS. It can't get off the ground. A BLACK MASS trails it, YIPPING.

INT. DIRIGIBLE COCKPIT - SAME

SUSAN

We've taken on too much weight!

Lanzo turns to Siofra and buries his head in her hands.

SIOFRA

What are you thinking?

EXT. PIRATE CAMP - SAME

Lanzo turns and leaps out of the ship. The YIPS of the Slime Dogs grow louder for a moment, then are silenced.

The Dirigible achieves liftoff! It soars into the air.

INT. DIRIGIBLE COCKPIT - SAME

Millia watches whatever happened down below in awe. Siofra stares at her hand. She is holding a WOLF FANG.

SUSAN

So why do you think I'm not going to kick you out too?

SIOFRA

Because we're the last hope of defeating the demon Harold.

SUSAN

Harold doesn't come south of the wolf woods. Everyone knows that. She's no threat.

SIOFRA

Because we'll do your dishes?

SUSAN

I have someone for that.

Susan's Husband peeks his head in, warily.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Take the controls. I have business.

She switches seats with her husband and gets in Siofra's face.

SIOFRA

We're going south. To the coast. Looking for refugees from the Cathedral of Fyrshala.

MILLIA

Siofra, I don't think we want to boss around the pirates.

SUSAN

I don't think you do. We're the Nuclear Wing Company D, sweetie. Of the Devil's Grail? You might have heard of us?

A few members of her crew stand in the doorway, watching with great interest.

SIOFRA

I've heard you make more orphans than disease and deprivation combined.

SUSAN

Correct. We're the crown jewel of the pirate armada. Do you know how I got to be captain? I murdered the last one. And every one of these badasses on my crew knows if they want my job they just have to do the same. In my sleep, if they want.

She whispers in Siofra's ear.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

And they're too scared to.

She pulls a KNIFE and holds it to Siofra's throat. Millia JUMPS. Siofra remains steely.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

I bet you think you're some hot to trot warrior because no one in your little middle-of-nowhere town knew what to make of you. The poor bumpkins were too stupid to know the word "exhibitionist."

MILLIA

(trying to help)

This is holy armor from the armories of Fryshala.

SIOFRA

It's just plate mail. Same as any other. I just thought it looked cool.

Susan runs her fingers along Siofra's breast plate.

SUSAN

So you admit you don't even have anything worth stealing before we kill you.

SIOFRA

Try it. I'm Siofra Whelan, the swordarm of Fyrshala, the scourge of monsters and protective fathers the world over. Guardian of the innocent and hunter of evil, heartless people like you.

Susan moves to stab Siofra. Siofra catches Susan by the wrist, twisting it so she drops the knife.

They begin making out. Siofra pins Susan against a set of controls, using her dirty shield to hold her down. Susan's husband reaches out to them.

HUSBAND

Um, I need to - the altimeter...

They move off of the controls. Susan's husband presses a button now uncovered.

HUSBAND (CONT'D)

Thank you, dear.

SIOFRA

So. South coast?

SUSAN

That's where we're going anyway. Pirate country.

Millia nods uncomfortably to one of the crew members.

MILLIA

She always like this?

CREW MEMBER

Yeah. Yours?

MILLIA

Yeah. I wonder if it's a lifethreatening peril thing.

INT. DIRIGIBLE BEDROOM - DAWN

Siofra carves the fang Lanzo gave her and threads a string through it, sitting by the side of a bed. Susan looks at her from under the blanket, contented.

SUSAN

Shame we can't smoke with all the flammable gases around.

SIOFRA

Susan... cool name, by the way... You've been doing this for a while? Fighting, traveling?

SUSAN

Since I was a little kid.

SIOFRA

But you're married.

Susan's husband STIRS, lying in the corner of the bed.

SUSAN

Yeah. He just sort of ignores my dalliances.

SIOFRA

What if... What if he asked you to settle down?

SUSAN

I'd kick him out of the airlock and find someone better.

Siofra nods, looking a little airsick.

A KNOCK comes at the door.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Speak or die.

MILLIA (O.S.)

We're almost there. They said you'd like to know. And, uh, Boss...

SUSAN

You're not on my crew, relax.

MILLIA

No, my Boss. Siofra.

Siofra is touched by the term.

MILLIA (CONT'D)

I cleaned your panties in the galley, so you don't have any more excuses not to wear any.

Siofra snaps her fingers. Aw, darn.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - DAY

A lighthouse sits by the shore of a little town. The harbor is full of different fishing boats, sailing ships, and flying ones.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE UPPER CHAMBER - SAME

It's a little round office. Papers and books are scattered everywhere, as well as musical intruments and weapons.

A SHADOW passes in front of the window as LEONTINE, quite a proper lady in a velvet suit, watches a dirigible move to land.

LEONTINE

Oh, dear. Company D is back. Girls, I hope you're rested!

Behind a desk, Ulrikka, a studious-looking wench in minimal clothing, looks up from her work and groans.

ULRIKKA

Can't you tell her we all have diseases?

LEONTINE

No, none of you have diseases. That's the Grope Lane guarantee.

EXT. BOARDWALK - SAME

Susan and a group of her crew, along with Millia and Siofra, walk up the docks toward the lighthouse.

SUSAN

Grope Lane, me hearties. The finest brothel in all the land. So all the pirates come by as soon as we get the chance.

SIOFRA

Do they have anything in the way of succubi? Maybe bookish, sweet ones?

SUSAN

They have a costume department finer than any theater.

Millia tugs on Siofra's arm.

MILLIA

Hadn't we better look for the refugees first?

SUSAN

Oh, yeah. My husband will help you out.

Susan and her crew leaves. Susan's husband, lonely and small, smiles at Millia and Siofra.

SIOFRA

Oh, hey. Didn't see you there. Where do you reckon travelers fleeing demonic persecution would go?

Husband shrugs and points to a MANOR on a hill overlooking the town. People are sunning themselves on its lawn.

HUSBAND

I know that place has been abandoned for years. But it looks occupied now.

Siofra nods and turns to Millia.

SIOFRA

Shall we check it out?

EXT. MANOR - DAY

Siofra and Millia approach the manor, passing a pair of SUNBATHING BEAUTIES.

Siofra returns and shakes their hands.

SIOFRA

Hi, Siofra. Siofra Whelan.

She walks back to the manor.

INT. MANOR FOYER - SAME

The foyer is empty of people and drafty.

SIOFRA

I seek survivors of the Cathedral of Fyrshala!

There is a CLATTER. IZRA, a big, tough, scary dude in a full suit of armor, enters from the balcony above, holding a sword ready.

IZRA

I am Izra, protector of the faith. I will not allow you to threaten us, demons.

He runs at Siofra, who catches his blade with her filthy shield. They exchange some sword blows.

SIOFRA

I'm not here to kill you. I'm a paladin too. A holy knight.

Izra knocks her sword out of her hand. She shrugs, cool.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

I'm not here to fight. Ask me anything. I know every pornographic quarto of Fyrshala's holy texts. My parents didn't let me read actual dirty books, so I had to get creative.

IZRA

Have you the mark of the goddess?

SIOFRA

Of course I have the brand!
 (annoyed, point to Millia)
Except this one made me wear
underwear today so I can't really
show you.

Izra nods at her expectantly.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

I don't want to stretch the elastic!

Millia watches Siofra bend over.

MILLIA

Thank God I'm agnostic.

Izra nods, satisfied, as Siofra stands up straight.

IZRA

Loria! We have a visitor!

LORIA, an aged nun who grins and giggles like a schoolboy making obscene graffiti, creeps into the room.

LORIA

One of our flock?

Siofra kneels.

SIOFRA

I am here to serve, madam.

LORIA

Oh, be still my thighs.

Izra chuckles at this despite his dignity. Millia's mouth hangs open.

MILLIA

They're all like Siofra.

INT. PARLOR - NIGHT

Loria, Izra, Millia, and Siofra sit by a roaring fireplace, drinking tea.

LORIA

Harold isn't the baddest demon in the world. Harold isn't even the most evil. But what Harold is, is she's protected by prophecy. She will be bested one day by one touched by Fyrshala. But until that day comes, she's invincible, and she's going to make sure there aren't a lot of us around to get that blessing.

SIOFRA

Blessing? For once I was kind of hoping there'd be an enchanted sword or something.

LORIA

No. In the distant past, one of the faithful built a tower out here, on the coast, that reached her domain in the heavens.

IZRA

My ancestor.

LORIA

He's a Fyrshalan, his blood runs in more of us than you can imagine.

IZRA

We came here to find what he did, and see if she would speak to us directly. I have served her all my life, but I may not have her blessing.

Siofra turns to Millia, who is located exactly where the camera and by extension the audience are.

SIOFRA

You got all that?

MILLIA

(nodding)

So the whole "spiritual guidance and sense of peace through prayer" thing really isn't enough?

SIOFRA

Ignore her, I accidentally converted her to agnosticism.

IZRA

And she's here because...

MILLIA

I'm Siofra's squire.

SIOFRA

She's just -

(to Millia)

Technically I can only take a squire who's assigned by the church.

LORIA

Take her. Do what you want. The church is no more. Harold will find us and we will be slaughtered.

SIOFRA

Not if we find this tower.

IZRA

Hold your tongue. We've been here for a while and we've found no clues. Even the paladin who was sent on a holy quest to find the tower years ago gave up, lost her faith, and turned to sin. MILLIA

Sin? You turn confession into a BDSM game. Exactly what sins does a slut goddess recognize?

IZRA

Charging.

Siofra coughs.

SIOFRA

Like, a, she runs a...

IZRA

A brothel. Grope Lane. You must have seen it, she operates it out of the lighthouse.

Siofra collects her sword and shield.

SIOFRA

Well, I guess we'll have to start our investigation there! Thank you for the tea.

LORIA

Stay the night. Leontine's wenches are ferocious when their beauty sleep is interrupted.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - MORNING

The sun rises. The lighthouse's lamp turns off.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE BEDROOM - SAME

Susan and her crew destroy furniture chasing FRENZIED WENCHES around a perfectly round sleeping quarters. Ulrikka pleads,

ULRIKKA

We are not objects! We need sleep!

SUSAN

You can sleep when you're dead!

Susan tackles Ulrikka, lifting her over her shoulder. Ulrikka giggles and we realize they're enjoying themselves.

The door CREAKS open below. Ulrikka peeks over the stairs.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE ENTRANCE - SAME

Siofra steps in, looking around. Ulrikka comes to her.

ULRIKKA

Can I help you?

SIOFRA

Hello, I was, uh, looking to spend some time.

ULRIKKA

All of over associates are currently unavailable. If you'd like to make an appointment - or just outbid our current clients?

Siofra pats where her armor does not have any pockets.

SIOFRA

Oh, yeah. Money.

ULRIKKA

Yes. Most ladies of the night ask for money.

Ulrikka turns to leave.

SIOFRA

Wait. Um, do you have anyone named Leontine here? Former holy warrior?

ULRIKKA

Not to deadbeats, no.

She goes back upstairs. As Siofra leaves, she hears GIGGLING and a THUMP as someone is tackled to the ground.

EXT. BOARDWALK - DAY

Millia enjoys a fish on a stick purchased from a sidewalk vendor. Siofra speaks to her conspiratorially.

MILLIA

Any luck?

SIOFRA

No. I have a plan. Did you keep my old clothes?

MILLIA

Yes. They're at the manor.

SIOFRA

Okay. Catch you later.

Siofra heads up the beach toward the manor on the hill. Millia turns and sees SOMEBODY duck behind a barrel. She gives chase.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - SAME

Millia catches up with the person she's chasing - Helena, in Siofra's cloak.

MILLIA

Helena! You made it!

HELENA

(avoiding eye contact)
Don't tell Siofra I'm here.

MILLIA

Why did you come if you didn't want to meet up with us?

HELENA

I'm just waiting for passage off the continent. The ship leaves tonight.

MILLIA

Where are you going?

HELENA

Nowhere. Same as usual.

Millia looks concerned. Helena looks her in the eye.

HELENA (CONT'D)

Don't tell Siofra I'm here until I'm gone.

MILLIA

She misses you.

HELENA

Be safe, Millia. Don't let anyone hurt you.

Helena disappears into the crowd.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE ENTRANCE - DAY

Siofra re-enters, now wearing a bad suit, like Kurt Russell in *Big Trouble in Little China*, carrying a bag with her armor and sword in it. She knocks on the wall.

Ulrikka comes down. Susan's crew is gone, the place is quiet, Ulrikka's hair is a mess, and she's yawning.

Siofra shakes her hand.

SIOFRA

Shafakahn. I'm a civil servant.

ULRIKKA

The manager keeps all our permits in order.

SIOFRA

And where is your manager?

ULRIKKA

Leontine? She's busy. She's the lighthouse keeper and the harbormaster, too, you know? Look, who are you?

SIOFRA

Female Body Inspector. I'm going to have to search the premises.

ULRIKKA

Look, we don't want any trouble.

SIOFRA

Really? Cuz you're in a lot of it, young lady.

She growls lasciviously. Ulrikka bites her lower lip.

ULRIKKA

Can you put off your work for a few minutes?

SIOFRA

I only put my work off in two-hour increments.

EXT. CITY GATES - DAY

Susan and her crew haggle with a MAN carting barrels.

SUSAN

Look, you and I both know rum is cheap as can be just an hour out of here. This surcharge is ridiculous.

MAN

Then why don't you take your little ship and get your rum somewhere you prefer it?

SUSAN

Because I want rum NOW!

An ARROW pierces the barrel and the rum spills out.

MAN

Well, I might give you a discount-

Susan pulls him behind the barrels, where her crew takes cover. They look where the arrow came from.

Harold and her demons stride in.

HAROLD

Looking for some followers of the slut goddess.

SUSAN

Get back on your horses, demon.

Susan rises and goes to Harold.

HAROLD

Or what, pirate?

Susan tries to stab her, but her knife shatters. Harold LAUGHS and lifts Susan by her neck.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

I'm gonna give you one more chance. Fyrshala. Church ladies. One with a little red cloak. Where?

Susan GASPS for air and looks frightened for the first time.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE BEDROOM - DAY

Siofra is practically a liquid lying on a couch, she's so relaxed and loose, enjoying the company of Ulrikka and another wench. The door beneath the SLAMS SHUT.

MILLIA

Boss! I found Leontine!

Millia and Leontine climb the stairs. Siofra and her wenches scramble to reach a more dignified position. Ulrikka hands a pile of money to Leontine, who counts it.

MILLIA (CONT'D)

Turns out she's the harbormaster, as well as a madame. You didn't have to come in here at all!

SIOFRA

I think you'll find I did.

LEONTINE

Okay, this is Susan's pull? How about this one?

She motions to Siofra, who coughs.

ULRIKKA

We were bribing her to keep from getting shut down. She's a Female Body Inspector, from the Ministry of the Beach.

(downcast)

Okay, even I didn't believe that.

LEONTINE

Pro bono work. Good for you. Keeps Grope Lane in people's hearts and minds. Your squire tells me you're looking for the Tower of Fyrshala?

Siofra nods. Leontine sighs and leads them to the stairs leading up.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE UPPER CHAMBER - DAY

Leontine motions around her office. Millia and Siofra spread out, looking confused.

LEONTINE

Here it is. The end of my holy quest and the room my faith died. Every text I could find pointed to this lighthouse as Izra the Eldest's masterpiece. But there was nothing here. Just a lamp.

MILLIA

Maybe it was a metaphor? Religious people love those. If it's a metaphor involving people's butts then we'll know Fyrshala was here.

LEONTINE

(seriously)

Don't joke.

Siofra opens her bag, steps behind a changing screen, and begins changing back into her armor.

SIOFRA

Yes, Millia. This is a serious matter. Do you think any of the wenches might have clues? I'd be happy to interrogate them over dinner.

But Leontine is staring at the filthy shield in Siofra's bad.

LEONTINE

That shield... Could I have it?

SIOFRA

Of course. It's just stuff.

Leontine takes the shield and starts moving weapons and instruments against the wall. She finds an IMPRINT OF A FLAME on the wall, perfectly matching the size of the mark on the shield.

LEONTINE

I searched for years, and you were going to throw the key away.

She fits the shield into the marking. It GLOWS a magical light. Leontine's mouth gapes in awe. Siofra and Millia watch in vague interest, as...

Nothing else happens.

MILLIA

Well, I hope this brings you peace.

They hear EXPLOSIONS from the town, and SCREAMS.

They look out of the window and see smoke rising.

Siofra and Millia share a look. Siofra takes her sword.

SIOFRA

Demons. Let's go.

But Leontine is on her knees, wailing.

LEONTINE

It is hopeless. Only Fyrshala can defeat Harold, and she will only appear to one worthy of her presence. I have grown fat and lost my faith.

SIOFRA

I haven't. She just doesn't care about people who thinks she's more important than trying hard.

LEONTINE

Bite your tongue.

SIOFRA

See? You still care about blasphemy. Your faith isn't gone. I've fought dragons and trolls and armies of ghosts and I don't need any magical shields or holy fire because what I get from Fyrshala is courage and strength and the passion to fight against any odds. Let's go out there and kick some demon butt.

The GLOW from the shield on the wall grows stronger and overpowers them. Siofra stares at it, hearing something.

FYRSHALA (V.O.)

Come to me, my brave warrior.

Siofra looks at the town, and then at the shield.

The ceiling has opened up, and the stars of night shine through it.

EXT. MANOR - SAME

Harold approaches the home of the Fyrshalan refugees. The sunbathers are gone, their hastily-vacated towels remaining.

HAROLD

Followers of the slut goddess!
Before you stands your apocalypse.

Harold KNOCKS on the door twice, then PUNCHES her fist through it and reaches for the door handle.

We hear a CLANK of metal and she withdraws her hand in its metal gauntlet.

The door swings open and out comes Izra, sword ready.

Harold draws one of her many weapons, an axe, and in a single chop, SHATTERS Izra's sword.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

You're no warrior. Surrender Siofra.

Izra stares behind her, to the lighthouse. She turns.

A BEAM OF LIGHT of many colors bursts from the top, shining skyward.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE UPPER CHAMBER - SAME

Leontine approaches the glowing light.

LEONTINE

My whole life...

She touches the wall and EVAPORATES with a worrying fizzing noise.

MILLIA

Do you think she's okay?

HAROLD (V.O.)

(roaring)

SIOFRA!

SIOFRA

We shouldn't be going on some vision quest at a time like this.

MILLIA

Loria said this was the only way.

FYRSHALA (V.O.)

(heard only by Siofra)

Come to me, my beloved.

A daze creeps across Siofra's eyes and she touches the glowing light. She, too, EVAPORATES.

Millia closes her eyes to steel herself and does the same.

EXT. BOARDWALK - SAME

Ian and a coterie of demons watch as the beam of light SIZZLES like a bug zapper and then vanishes.

In the corner of Ian's eye, he sees a FLASH OF RED. - Helena, in Siofra's cloak, running down an alley.

Ian gives chase.

INT. CRYSTAL TOWER - TIME BETWEEN TIMES

Leontine, Siofra, and Millia awaken, in that order, lying on a stone pedestal, in a great glass chamber, not unlike a modern Earth corporate exhibit hall.

Siofra is the first to reach her feet. She looks around.

Hanging on the wall is a MOTIVATIONAL POSTER, with a photograph of modern skiers, captioned PASSION: Love's Greatest Power.

SIOFRA

What do you suppose the people in this picture are doing?

Leontine looks around in fear.

LEONTINE

The realm of the gods is...

MILLIA

I'll admit, it's really challenging my lack of faith.

HARPY (O.C.)

Can I help you?

They turn. Sitting behind a reception desk is a HARPY, a bird-woman, about 25, with a sharp haircut, earrings, and an executive business suit, shuffling papers.

MILLIA

Demons. Attacking a town. Only Fyrshala can stop them.

HARPY

She's booked solid for the next four hundred years, sweetie. And that'll be a while here in the time between times.

She points to a clock above her, which is motionless, even the second hand.

Siofra walks over, wiggling her hips as much as she can, and leans on the desk, trying to show some cleavage.

SIOFRA

Look, is there any way we could slip into that schedule? Just a couple ticks of the unmoving clock?

HARPY

I know you think you got a reason. Orpheus swore up and down he wasn't just wasting our time. But whatever you got won't impress ol' Fiery herself.

SIOFRA

She's been appearing in my dreams, begging me to show up, for half my life. I've gotten down and dirty with every living species of the planet and some artificial ones. Frankly, a goddess is the only

HARPY

Oh. I thought this was business. If it's pleasure, I can point you to the trial of horrors entrance and see if you can sweet talk her into sparing your soul.

SIOFRA

That'd be terrific.

HARPY

Third door on the left.

Siofra and the group share shrugs and head to the third door down the hall. Leontine is trailing, still in awe.

THE DOOR

The door is an unassuming sort of thing, by modern standards - metal, printed with the words TRIAL OF HORRORS. All the same, it impresses the party, until they realize there are no handles. Siofra fails to budge it an inch.

Millia looks around and finds a BUTTON on the wall opposite. When she presses it, the door SLIDES open, and when she releases the button it CLOSES.

They turn to the Harpy.

HARPY (CONT'D)

One of you will have to operate it. I'm way too busy to play tour guide.

LEONTINE

(in awe of an office door) The first trial... We must sacrifice to reach the goddess.

MILLIA

Well, I can stay.

LEONTINE

No. I will stay. I have seen heaven. And... I'm not sure I want to see more.

Siofra and Millia gratefully watch her go to the button.

LEONTINE (CONT'D)

And the Harpy looks cute. I'm gonna see if I have a chance. See you around, heroes.

She OPENS the door. Siofra and Millia duck through.

INT. TRIAL OF HORRORS - TIME BETWEEN TIMES

Siofra and Millia walk down a dingy, dusty basement storage hallway. Siofra looks at a door they pass and tries it, then gives up when it does not budge.

STOFRA

The heck is a "Janitor's Closet" anyway?

MILLIA

Must lead to a different goddess.

SIOFRA

See, this is the kind of dungeon I love! Spookyness, surprise. There could be anything here!

Millia stops, pulls Siofra back, and points to a set of deep indentations in the walls, running horizontally about neck-height.

MILLIA

There's a trap right here.

SIOFRA

Thanks. You're gonna learn so much about being a holy knight.

MILLIA

It says "Only a worthy servant will see Fyrshala."

Millia points to an engraving on the wall. Siofra studies it, and begins to pace down the hall, into the trap, thinking.

SIOFRA

The worthy servant to Fyrshala... Takes things slow... Watches for the slightest changes... A worthy servant...

GEARS GRIND behind the walls and a series of arrows SHOOT out of the indentations on either side of the wall. Siofra DUCKS to the ground just in time.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

A worthy servant stays on her knees, Millia.

Millia follows Siofra, walking on her knees.

MILLIA

You're loving this, aren't you?

SIOFRA

Aren't you? I hope the next trap involves OTK.

MILLIA

OTK?

They reach the end of the indentations and stand up.

SIOFRA

OTK is, uh, Ornate, um, Talon-Killing. Fancy claws shooting out of the walls. Love those traps.

A GRASPING SHARP METAL CLAW BURSTS out of the wall and rakes toward Millia's face. Millia jumps away just in time, hugging Siofra for balance. Siofra hugs her, calm and collected in the face of Millia's panic.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

I, uh, I thought I made that up.

MILLIA

I guess Fyrshala's followers really are predictable.

SIOFRA

Only upright. Come on!

She runs down the hall before Millia can react to her words.

INT. CONVENTION FLOOR - TIME BETWEEN TIMES

They reach a big arena set up in what by rights ought to be the main floor of an industrial convention hall.

Across the area is a large, ornate stone gate, seemingly standing in the middle of the room, leading nowhere, stretched between two metal support structures.

In the middle of the arena stands a statue that appears to be of Izra, or his identical ancestor IZRA I, hewn from granite, wielding weapons.

Siofra and Millia approach the statue.

SIOFRA

I don't suppose you come to life and could give use directions to Fyrshala, could you?

She looks around, then shrugs to Millia.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

I guess he's just there to look spooky. It worked.

They try to pass, but the statue, growing animate though still made of stone, moves a weapon in front of Millia.

IZRA I

You may pass, Siofra Whelan, swordarm of Fyrshala. But the atheist virgin is not worthy.

SIOFRA

What? Not worthy how?

IZRA I

I believe I just answered that question.

Millia shrugs.

MILLIA

Okay. Let me know how paradise is, Boss.

IZRA I

No one returns from paradise.

Recognizing seriousness, Siofra returns to Millia's side.

IZRA I (CONT'D)

The virgin may not pass.

SIOFRA

Don't be dense, rockhead, the virgin stays with me.

MILLIA

You can just call me Millia, it's fine.

SIOFRA

I'm still savoring the news.

(to Izra I)

This is my friend. I'm not going to abandon her in the time between times for all time.

IZRA I

I hope you will enjoy your principles, here, this side of paradise.

SIOFRA

Can she lose it now?

IZRA I

I was wondering when you'd get the picture.

SIOFRA

You dirty old statue!

IZRA I

I serve my purpose.

Millia pulls Siofra away. They walk a few steps out of Izra I's earshot.

MILLIA

Siofra, I don't want to bonk a statue.

SIOFRA

It wouldn't have to be with him. I mean, I was thinking one last roll with a mortal would be nice.

They consider the possibility, all lips present twitching.

MILLIA

Let's just fight him.

SIOFRA

Or we could do that!

Siofra moves to tackle the statue. She does this, but he has no give - it is like running at a stone wall. He kicks her to the floor.

IZRA I

I am Izra the first. I sired a bloodline of great swordsmen. You will not live. Heed me.

SIOFRA

I'm Siofra Whelan and I never had good listening skills.

She leaps to her feet and there is a WHIRLWIND of strikes and parries between his two swords and her one.

She is backing up, giving him space, but at least blocking every hit. Finally he tries to strike with both swords at once and leaves his side open.

She swings but it's like HITTING SOLID ROCK - and the sword flies out of her hand against the wall.

Millia runs to get the sword as Siofra runs at full speed, leading Izra I around the room.

MTT.T.TA

I got the sword!

Izra I changes direction to run straight to her.

IZRA I

I will destroy all challengers!

Millia YELLS and tries to reach Siofra. They convene in front of a big metal support beam structure holding up the grand ceiling and Siofra takes her sword back.

SIOFRA

You get to safety. See if this gate opens.

She starts trading blows with Izra I, pushed back easily. Millia looks at the support beams and then the fight.

MILLIA

Wait. Metal can break rock easy.

Siofra and Millia make eye contact just long enough for a nod. Millia holds up her arms.

MILLIA (CONT'D)

He fights the one with the sword.

Siofra tosses Millia the sword. Izra I turns around and SHOUTS at her as Siofra creeps nearer the beams.

Millia tosses her the sword and runs around the other side of the beams.

Siofra blocks strike after strike and manages to push Izra I back a few steps, until he is near the support beams.

SIOFRA

I can't keep this up for long.

IZRA I

So give up.

SIOFRA

As you wish.

The moment he leaves a second to recover, she tosses the sword through the scaffolding straight to Millia, who catches it.

MILLIA

I'm gonna destroy you.

Izra I turns aggressively, his whole body turned out, and SHATTERS his arms and upper torso on the metal.

His disembodied legs turn around for a moment and then run off.

Siofra collapses to the ground, exhausted. Millia comes to her side.

SIOFRA

So about this gate.

She can't lift her head to look at it. Millia squints at a legend printed across the top of the gate in arcane runes.

MILLIA

I can't read it. Helena could.

Siofra squints and GRUNTS and looks at it for a second, then collapses again.

SIOFRA

"The only way is through love." It was all over the book Helena helped me read.

MILLIA

No one else could compare to her, huh?

SIOFRA

It's not that simple. I just wish I could have gotten to know her better. But everyone's beautiful in their own way. Helena was perfect at being Helena. You're wonderful at...

She trails off, staring up at Millia.

Millia bends and kisses her.

MILLIA

Thank you for taking me with you.

They kiss again, longer, more passionate.

It turns into straight up making out.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - TIME BETWEEN TIMES (DAY)

Nothing moves. The lighthouse is visible in the distance as a DEMON is frozen in the middle of a frenzied leap at a SCREAMING TOWNSMAN dressed like a cartoon chef.

A sack of bagels is mid-spill onto the street below.

INT. CONVENTION FLOOR - TIME BETWEEN TIMES

Siofra and Millia cling to each other's bodies. Siofra pulls her hand out from Millia's clothing.

MILLIA

I really thought it would be open by now.

SIOFRA

Look, I know you're new to this, but you can't rush these things.

MILLIA

The door, Boss.

SIOFRA

I thought you liked me.

MILLIA

Isn't this a display of love?

SIOFRA

Is this just about the gate?

MILLIA

Yes, Siofra. And you can admit that's all it is to you, too.

SIOFRA

I do care about you.

MILLIA

I know I can't be everything to you, but I came all this way with you because you're someone I believe in. Because I know whatever you have planned is probably going to turn out fine. I don't care if you leave me out here, I just want you to get what you want.

In an instant, the room is BATHED IN A MAGICAL LIGHT and Millia stops moving. Siofra waves a hand in front of her face. Nothing.

She sits up. She feels healthy again. The big stone gates have opened, leading to a realm of light.

Siofra climbs out of Millia's arms. She looks at the motionless girl and sets her arms in a sultry pin-up art sort of pose, then moves to the door.

INT. THROUGH THE DOOR - TIME BETWEEN TIME BETWEEN TIMES

The only person in the void of colors and unclear images is FYRSHALA, in person at last, stocky and confident, wearing only strips of cloth. She only has two arms in person.

She is sharpening a long, nasty-looking glaive, sitting in an invisible chair, surrounded by paintings of landscapes.

She turns to look at a visitor - Siofra the Paladin - and tucks the spear into the back of her top.

Siofra looks around, respectful and wary, like a girl visiting her mother-in-law's house for the first time.

FYRSHALA

Siofra Whelan, at last.

SIOFRA

You've heard of me?

FYRSHALA

Of course. Your exploits are spoken of in taverns across the land. People scream your name in ecstasy when you're with them and whisper it when they remember you.

SIOFRA

I'm good at fightin', too.

Fyrshala buries Siofra's head in her chest, embracing her.

FYRSHALA

You sure are, you big, strong warrior. But fighters are a dime a dozen. You've been elevated above all of my knights, child. Do you know for what purpose I have called you?

SIOFRA

I don't know the polite way to say it to a goddess.

FYRSHALA

But you know it. There's a start.

She takes Siofra and dips her, low, deep, kissing her hard.

FYRSHALA (CONT'D)

You are chosen to be my consort. A demigod. Do you feel the energy of my realm filling your spirit? You will never be exhausted.

SIOFRA

I was rarely exhausted before. But thank you. Uh, ma'am.

Fyrshala clips a small leather choker around Siofra's neck and clasps it shut.

FYRSHALA

Come to my chamber.

Siofra looks around at all the void, confused.

INT. BOUDOIR - TIME BETWEEN TIME BETWEEN TIMES

Fyrshala guides Siofra by her choker into a sumptuously furnished sleeping chamber, with velvet and silk everywhere, in deep reds and purples.

FYRSHALA

Now. Serve me.

SIOFRA

My friends. There are demons.

FYRSHALA

Oh! I admit, usually people can't remember their mortal concerns in my presence. I'm slightly hurt.

SIOFRA

You are the one I dream about. The fantasy I can't let go of. But I care about them. Millia. Leontine. Susan. Helena.

FYRSHALA

You've loved a lot of women.

SIOFRA

I love a lot of women.

Fyrshala snaps her fingers.

FYRSHALA

With just a thought, I can eradicate the demons attacking your little friends. Would you like that?

The wall, previously black, provides an image of the world below as she narrates.

EXT. MANOR ROOF - DAY

Harold roaring on top of the manor. She suddenly catches fire and quickly vanishes.

FYRSHALA (V.O.)

I will eliminate the demons who fall under my power. No townspeople will be hurt.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE UPPER CHAMBER - DAY

Leontine and Millia are returned to the mortal coil, dropped on their butts as the glowing light fades.

FYRSHALA (V.O.)

Your friends will be taken home.

EXT. BOARDWALK - DAY

Ian the demon lifts Helena by the back of her cloak. Helena scrunches her eyes shut, then she is dropped to the ground.

She turns. The demon is gone.

FYRSHALA (V.O.)

Safe and sound, all of them.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Helena and A MAN WHO MAY OR MAY NOT BE DRACULA stand in wedding clothes before a monstrous priest.

FYRSHALA (V.O.)

You made it to happily-ever-after territory.

INT. BOUDOIR - TIME BETWEEN TIME BETWEEN TIMES

Siofra sits up with a jolt.

SIOFRA

I don't think I can accept this.

FYRSHALA

Siofra Whelan? Not sure about an eternity at the boom-boom burlesque? Perhaps I'm losing my omniscient touch.

SIOFRA

It's just... I don't know if I could stay here. Forever.

FYRSHALA

Then give it a shot.

She kisses Siofra again. It mesmerizes her.

FYRSHALA (CONT'D)

You can stay with me. Stop worrying about seduction. I know that plays havoc with your insecurities. Just let someone love you. Simply be seduced.

Siofra's hands reach around Fyrshala and take the spear out from her top, then untie the top.

Fyrshala MOANS approvingly.

EXT. CITY GATES - TIME BETWEEN TIME BETWEEN TIMES

Susan, annoyed, frozen in time, points a gun at a DEMON watching her and her crew. The demon is standing, confidently, as a bullet (stopped in mid-air) has ricocheted off of his washboard abs.

INT. BOUDOIR - TIME BETWEEN TIME BETWEEN TIMES

Siofra sits up. Fyrshala rolls over (lying upside-down relative to Siofra) and does the same.

FYRSHALA

You seem disinterested.

SIOFRA

I have a lot on my mind.

FYRSHALA

Aren't I good enough for you?

SIOFRA

Of course you are. You're my goddess.

FYRSHALA

Do I kiss too hard? Are my boobs lopsided? I knew it.

SIOFRA

No, babe...

She pulls Fyrshala close and kisses her one last time.

She leaps from the bed, taking the spear, and runs out of the door.

INT. CONVENTION FLOOR - TIME BETWEEN TIMES

Siofra comes running out of the gates, which are no longer releasing light - they just close behind her. Millia is looking around, confused.

MILLIA

How did you get over there? Where did that spear come from?

SIOFRA

Talk later. Here, take my sword. I'm better with glaives.

She hands Millia her sword, who takes it in wonderment.

MILLIA

My teacher's sword... I'll treasure it always.

SIOFRA

Sure, uh, you do that. Did you know Helena was in town when the demons attacked?

MILLIA

She asked me not to tell you.

SIOFRA

Yeah, well, if you had, I could have saved a lot of time visiting this broad for a rebound.

Siofra tilts her head to the stone gate on "this broad," then starts pacing.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

We're gonna need all the help we can get to save her.

Siofra pulls the wolf fang around her neck loose. Millia looks at the choker she now wears.

MILLIA

What's that?

SIOFRA

Uh, emblem of the goddess's favor.

Siofra holds the fang to her chest, then throws it to the ground.

GLASS SHATTERS. To their side they see Lanzo the wolf spirit bursting through a big window pane.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

I knew he was magic. Come on! We missed you, Lanzo!

They run to him.

INT. CRYSTAL TOWER - TIME BETWEEN TIMES

Lanzo, with Siofra and Millia on his back, runs down the hall and passes the reception desk, where Leontine and the Harpy are having quite an animated discussion.

SIOFRA

We got a city to save!

They climb off of Lanzo as Leontine waves goodbye to the Harpy. Lanzo, Leontine, Millia, and Siofra assemble on the stone altar three of them arrived on.

MILLIA

Are you sure we can beat Harold?

SIOFRA

Don't worry about Harold. We have an army of demons to fight before we have to cross that bridge.

MILLIA

This is not encouraging. Why do you think you have the blessing of a goddess you boinked and ran out on?

INT. BOUDOIR - TIME BETWEEN TIME BETWEEN TIMES

Fyrshala paints a picture of Siofra's face. Around her are displayed several more, of her in various activities and states of dress.

She SIGHS adoringly.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE UPPER CHAMBER - DAY

Mere instants after they left, they return. The wall GLOWS mightily and then is still.

Siofra runs to the shield, pulling it out of the wall. Leontine gathers the weapons she has lying around the place.

SIOFRA

We need weapons, armor. Anyone good in a fight. You used to be a knight, right?

LEONTINE

And I taught the wenches everything they know about play-fighting.

SIOFRA

We might need a corps of decoys. Assemble them and meet us outside as soon as you can. Their boss Harold is probably at the manor on the hill. I only hope they're giving her trouble.

EXT. BOARDWALK - DAY

Ian the demon hoists Helena over his shoulder.

IAN

I wonder what the boss will give me for finding you.

HELENA

Put me down!

SIOFRA (O.C.)

I have to echo the lady.

Siofra and Millia stand a few dozen yards down the boardwalk, armed and dangerous - Siofra with her glaive and her old filthy shield, and Millia with her teacher's sword.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Put her down.

EIGHT DEMONS in Mad Max leather costumes leap out of the alleys and debris of their own attack.

Ian laughs, seeing how many people stand between Siofra and him, and runs into town with Helena.

Siofra and Millia spring into action, weapons spinning.

It's a slaughter. Siofra cuts down the first demon she sees.

The second, behind him, has a big hammer. He slowly lifts it to swing at her. She tries to hold the shield up but ends up losing her grip - throwing it at his head. He falls to the ground.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

You, uh, might get more out of my shield than I did, Millia!

A third demon stoops to grab the shield. He blocks a few strikes from Millia with it, but then she sweeps his legs out from under him. As he falls, he throws it in the air, allowing Millia to catch it on the way back down.

She immediately uses it to block a hand-axe thrown at her.

She looks at the fourth demon, who threw it at her, and charges at him, shield first, knocking him over.

Siofra manages to chase a fifth demon with a mean-looking mace down near the sea and, striking toward his feet, causes his to step backwards into the water.

She thrusts her spear backwards and catches a sixth demon square in the solar plexus with its handle.

The lone survivor tries to look tough, but Siofra and Millia reconvene up the boardwalk and look tougher... until TEN MORE DEMONS file in from the city.

Siofra and Millia look at each other, concerned, as the demons they just beat up begin to climb to their feet and out of the sea.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

We just need to stop Harold and they should give up.

MILLIA

Any ideas on how to get to her are welcome, Boss.

GUNSHOT. The foremost demon is suddenly knocked over.

Susan and her crew run in. Her husband is wielding a small cannon in his arms.

SUSAN

Show 'em the Nuclear Wing Company D is no one to mess with!

Susan salutes to Siofra and Millia as a fray erupts around her.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Susan the thirteenth, at your service. Lemme introduce you to a crew member we recently enlisted.

The Troll Girl from the bridge steps out, now wearing a bandana with the jolly roger. One arm is in a cast, but her free arm holds a big club, which she knocks multiple demons down with.

Siofra and Millia watch with big grins for a moment, then run into town.

EXT. PATH TO MANOR - DAY

Siofra and Millia run up a winding, steep path to the manor.

Ian blocks their way, grinning.

IAN

I should have known your friend was a succubus. You ever met one of my kind? An incubus?

He waves his arms much like Helena did when she mesmerized the Troll.

Siofra shrugs, unimpressed.

SIOFRA

Are you doing a magic thing?

Millia is spellbound. Her eyes glaze over and she runs to him - Siofra catches her by the arm.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Oh, come on. Surely I've converted you by now.

Ian lifts Millia in his arms. Moonglow, who was heretofore unseen, places a hand on Siofra's shoulder.

MOONGLOW

Howl.

SIOFRA

What?

MOONGTOW

Lanzo told me everything.

SIOFRA

He's very concise when he needs to be.

MOONGLOW

Howl.

Siofra HOWLS. Millia shakes her head and backs away from Ian.

A few BARKS are heard. Lanzo the wolf bounds down the path behind Ian, flanked by two fully-grown doggies of different species dripping with slime.

SIOFRA

My babies!

Lanzo tackles Ian to the ground.

MOONGLOW

The rest of the puppies are fighting all over the city. (MORE)

MOONGLOW (CONT'D)

I told them demon flesh tasted like bacon. You need to take care of Harold.

SIOFRA

Right. Feeling better, Millia?

She runs up the hill, Millia trailing after.

The puppies nip at Ian's face.

EXT. MANOR - DAY

Siofra and Millia approach the door of the manor.

SIOFRA

Show yourself, Harold! It's me you have business with.

HAROLD

At last, you've come.

They look up. Harold is standing atop the manor, sniffing the air.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Is it her?

Cabiria the babe steps forward, looks down, and nods.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Wonderful. I think I have something just as precious to you as my Cabiria is to me, up here.

SIOFRA

What?

A second demon pushes Helena forward. She's tied and gagged.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Oh, who. You said something.

Helena's a person.

HAROLD

Not for long, she ain't.

He pushes her off the roof of the manor.

Siofra runs and dives, barely managing to catch her - the only reason her chest is not crushed is her breastplate. She's flattened to the ground.

Helena looks at Siofra, happy.

SIOFRA

Hey babe.

They stare at each other for a little longer than it should take for Siofra to remember she's gagged and take the cloth out of her mouth.

They kiss.

HELENA

I missed you.

SIOFRA

We need to talk.

HAROLD

So you caught one. Do you think you could catch your whole church?

Another demon pushes Loria forward, similarly bound and gagged.

Behind her, a good thirty REFUGEES, including Izra, stand, bound, waiting.

SIOFRA

Come on, Harold. Stop screwing around. Your crew is getting beat around half the city. You could kill the whole church and you'd never lay a finger on me.

HAROLD

Want to wager?

SIOFRA

No, I want to trade. Let's fight. One on one. If you let these people go, you can have a swing at the champ.

MILLIA

(whispering)

I don't know if we can trust her.

SIOFRA

Let's hear it.

Harold purses her lips and looks at Cabiria.

EXT. MANOR ROOF - DAY

The demons now watch over the refugees, Izra, Loria, Millia, and Helena, clustered in the side of the roof. Cabiria suns herself as Siofra and Harold face each other down, weapons ready.

SIOFRA

This was not the deal, Harold.

HAROLD

I'm a demon. Shouldn't you feel safe, knowing you have that prophecy on your side? The slut goddess and all?

SIOFRA

Yeah. I mean, I probably have her blessing.

HAROLD

Good. You deserve some hope.

Harold points at Siofra's spear, but is surprised by how unaffected it is.

SIOFRA

You use rust magic? Seriously? This came from the goddess herself. You might be screwed.

Siofra runs at Harold. Harold pulls a length of chain from her pocket and wraps it around the spear, pulling it out of Siofra's hands and throwing it to the ground below.

Siofra raises her hands.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Unarmed combat is fine.

HAROLD

I'm going to enjoy beating the life out of you, slut.

Harold drops her own sword over the side of the building. Then she pulls out a hand-axe, and tosses that away.

Siofra watches as she pulls out weapon after weapon - a small mace, a set of brass knuckles, a crossbow - and drops them.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

One more.

Harold removes her leather jacket, exposing her scaly skin to the air, protected only by a camisole.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Wrestling is all about mobility.

Siofra follows her gaze to her own breastplate.

Reluctantly, she unclasps her armor and hands it to a demon, who may or may not sniff it.

The combatants stare each other down in their skivvies.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

I don't see much to be impressed with.

SIOFRA

I don't see much worth impressing.

Harold punches Siofra in the face, knocking her down. She rolls with it and springs back to her feet.

HAROLD

I've now you've got a crooked nose.

SIOFRA

It was already crooked, you crosseyed, fork-tongued demi-human.

HAROLD

Aw. You're making me blush.

Siofra runs at Harold and shoulder-checks her, tackling her to the ground, pinning her down. She alternates punching with either arm as she yells:

SIOFRA

That's for hurting Helena! And that's for all the killing and pillaging! And that's for hurting Helena! And that's for displacing a town of innocents! And that's for keeping sex slaves! Even if they were into it, when I tell this story, no one will believe that part!

Harold lifts Siofra off of her and throws her to the side, flipping the pin. She begins to strangle her.

HAROLD

Are you going to take this fight seriously, or am I going to have to teach you to beg?

She stands and pulls Siofra to her feet by the choker the goddess gave her.

Harold begins to pace and lecture.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

I've met a lot of your people over the years but no one in denial this bad. You think you're some boss bitch but you're wearing a collar, for the love of Pete!

A GASP passes across the crowd. Cabiria crosses herself.

CABIRIA

(muttering)

Don't take Pete's name in vain.

Harold looks out at the city, ignoring Siofra.

HAROLD

When will you and your wretched species learn that your place is beneath me?

Siofra TEARS her choker off and jumps at Harold, pulling the choker tight around her neck.

She refastens the choker around Harold's big, thick neck. Harold's hands fly to her neck. She tries to take it off.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

What is this?!

She falls to her knees, choking, scrabbling at her neck.

SIOFRA

What do you know? Our teeny little fingers are good for something after all.

BLACK SMOKE erupts from Harold's eyes and begins to billow, surrounding her body. She then vanishes.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Including but not limited to accessorizing.

She gives a significant judgmental glance at a Mad Max demon, who looks rightfully ashamed.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

Now clear out before I make you.

The demons leave. Those refugees with free hands begin to untie those who are bound.

Helena and Millia run to Siofra's side. She hugs them both warmly.

MILLIA

That was awesome, boss!

SIOFRA

What a day.

(to Helena)

How did I look?

HELENA

All right.

SIOFRA

Just all right?

HELENA

You really let her beat you around there.

SIOFRA

Bah. She was the closest to a challenge I've had in years. You're gonna tell me not to savor it?

MILLIA

That's why I follow her. She's strong, brave, and humble.

SIOFRA

Let's go sleep for a million years.

MILLIA

Not a chance. There's gonna be a party for us.

Siofra grins and leans her head back, perfectly content.

SIOFRA

No rest for the wicked.

INT. TAVERN PARTY - NIGHT

Siofra sits on a bar, exhausted, refastening Lanzo's fang to her necklace.

A roomful of revelers, including Millia, Loria, Izra, Ulrikka, Leontine, Susan, her husband, the Troll, and the rest of her crew, CLINK steins and SING THE SONG about her adventure with the flower-girls.

REVELERS

(singing)

Where flowered Aaron of the wood Dethroned the rightful-

SIOFRA

No, no, "Alraunes." You find them mostly in the jungle, I'm not surprised you've never heard of them.

She sees Helena trying to sneak out, alone, and crosses to her, threading herself around the raucous party.

She sneaks out the door after Helena.

EXT. TAVERN - SAME

She goes after Helena. The RAUCOUS PARTY is much quieter outside.

SIOFRA

Stay.

HELENA

I can't. I have passage on a ship bound for Tanjil tonight.

SIOFRA

I thought you liked me.

HELENA

I love you. That's why I can't stay and watch you fall for everyone you meet.

SIOFRA

Is this about my kids? Because I'm not a deadbeat. Moonglow agreed she could take much better care of them than I ever could.

HELENA

Kids? What on Earth happened while
I was gone?

SIOFRA

Normal holy quest stuff.

(beat)

Took up with pirates. Slept with a god - but only the once. And I was disappointed.

HELENA

If you can't take this seriously, goodbye.

SIOFRA

Helena. I lo... I made it to Paradise. The happiest place on Earth, or whatever. And I bonked the honest-to-Jeremy slut goddess.

HELENA

I don't need to know this!

SIOFRA

And the whole time all I could think of was you. And I realized no matter what I do or where I go for the rest of my life if you weren't there I would have a hole in my heart. Because I love you.

Helena runs back to her and they embrace.

SIOFRA (CONT'D)

You wouldn't have had much fun in Tanjil without me anyway.

HELENA

Why not? Nice weather, conservative people, dignified dress code. Doesn't seem like your kind of town.

SIOFRA

My dad's in the government there. And no one gives a better tour of it than me.

Siofra leans her head back into the tavern.

INT. TAVERN PARTY - SAME

SIOFRA

Millia! Get the bags! Susan! Got the zeppelin ready!

MILLIA

Sure thing, boss!

Millia immediately sobers and hops into action gathering luggage. Susan and her pirates confer.

EXT. TAVERN - SAME

SIOFRA

Boats are fine, but have you ever flown?

(beat)

So I was thinking. About that succubus-demon-soul-sucking thing. Fyrshala said now she's touched me my soul was a little different. Try me. Just for a second.

Helena locks eyes with Siofra. Siofra's eyes glaze for a moment.

Helena breaks off. Siofra collects herself.

HELENA

It felt like drawing on a well that went down forever... Are you dizzy? Do you feel empty? Do you remember your family's names?

SIOFRA

No, no, and everyone except the oozing army of puppies.

HELENA

Seriously, what happened while I was gone?

SIOFRA

I feel fine.

HELENA

This is auspicious.

SIOFRA

Think there's time to test anything out before the boat leaves?

HELENA

No, we should get going.

SIOFRA

Just one more soul suck thing.

Siofra kisses Helena. It's the most impassioned one in the movie.

Then Millia opens the door, knocking the lovers apart and ruining the moment. A corps of pirates files out between them.

MILLIA

Where we going, boss?

SIOFRA

To Tanjil.

MILLIA

Are you guys okay?

But Siofra and Helena are off down the street with the pirates, leaving Millia to carry their bags alone.

Susan, her husband, and the Troll come out last.

SUSAN

I don't know where we're going, but wherever it is, I hope the rum is better.