

Screenplay

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"DragonTamer"

This is an excerpt from my fantasy screenplay *DragonTamer*. The story follows OGUN (oh-gun) and his friend ALDO (all-doh) who have embarked upon a journey to stop the cruel warlord SEREBOS (sair-eh-bose) from using a magical artifact to awaken a Dragon and lay siege to the land of Edelia, their home.

EXT. THE GILDED CHAPEL - NIGHT

THE GILDED CHAPEL is composed of dark wood and stone. Flying Buttresses arc off the sides like a ribcage. The amber-stained glass windows diffuse warm light onto the streets below. Hanging above the door is a rusty sign with "The Gilded Chapel" scrawled on it. ALDO scoffs while reading it.

ALDO
(sarcastic)
What a fitting name.

CRASH! An injured person is launched face first out of a ground level window, landing at ALDO's feet. Loud laughter can be heard coming from inside the pub at this now unconscious person's expense.

ALDO (CONT'D)
(startled)
Maker above...!

Suddenly, the broken shards of stained glass begin to **HUM** and **GLOW** with magical energy. The window quickly reassembles itself and flies back into place. It's as if it was never broken to begin with.

OGUN and ALDO stare wide-eyed at the building.

OGUN
Well...that's inviting.

ALDO steps aside, gesturing towards the main doors.

ALDO
...After you.

OGUN rolls his eyes before pushing the two heavy doors open and he enters the Gilded Chapel. ALDO follows behind him.

INT. THE GILDED CHAPEL - CONTINUOUS

This establishment is a hive of scummy activity. Drinking, fighting, gambling; if it's illegal, it's probably occurring somewhere in this bar.

The Gilded Chapel is converted from an abandoned church. The pews have been repurposed as a variety of tables and booths.

The altar has been turned into a stage where musicians are playing loudly, a stained glass mural behind them. The right side of the building has a long bar staffed by multiple bartenders with dozens of DRUNKEN PATRONS standing shoulder to shoulder.

OGUN and ALDO stand in the entrance, eyes wide.

ALDO

You know, I always wondered why my mom told me to avoid these kinds of places. I think I get it now.

ALDO'S attention is suddenly grabbed when a GORGEOUS BARMAID walks past him and OGUN. She notices his gaze and blows him a kiss. ALDO blushes.

ALDO (CONT'D)

Well...Maybe it's not **all** bad...

OGUN rolls his eyes.

OGUN

(annoyed)

Focus, Aldo. Time and place.

ALDO gives him a look that says, "are you kidding me, bro?"

ALDO

Look around you.

OGUN pauses for a moment.

OGUN

Ok, you got me there. But hey, if we survive this, we can come back and visit.

ALDO
(excited)
Really?

OGUN
No. Come on.

OGUN begins to walk towards the bar.

ALDO
(grumbling under his
breath)
Killjoy...

He follows OGUN to the bar.

INT. THE GILDED CHAPEL BAR - CONTINUOUS

A TATTOOED BARTENDER is pouring ale into a pint when our heroes approach. OGUN and ALDO squeeze in between the patrons to find space. To OGUN'S right is a CLOAKED FIGURE, her face obscured by a hood.

The BARTENDER gives the two young men a stale look.

TATTOOED BARTENDER
What do ya want?

OGUN
Oh, we're not here to drink. We
just need information.

TATTOOED BARTENDER
We don't serve information here,
kid. Now, either order a drink or
get out.

ALDO
Come on, man. Don't be like that.
Just help us out will, you?

The BARTENDER gives ALDO an unimpressed look.

OGUN
All sorts of...
(he looks around the bar)
...*unique* people come around
this place. I'm sure an
intelligent person like
yourself hears things...

TATTOOED BARTENDER
Nothin's free in Coaltown,
secrets especially.

OGUN
If we order something, would you be
a little more willing to help us?

TATTOOED BARTENDER
Depends on what you're looking for,
but we'll see. Libations first.

OGUN
Perfect! Then we'll have...uh...

He leans over to ALDO.

OGUN (CONT'D)
(whispering)
What do I order?

ALDO
(whispering)
I don't know, just ask for the
house special or something.

OGUN
(whispering)
Got it.
(to the Bartender)
Surprise us. Dealer's choice.

The BARTENDER scoffs.

TATTOOED BARTENDER
If you say so.

The BARTENDER grabs a pair of rocks glasses and pours a deep orange liquor into them. He slides the drinks to OGUN and ALDO. They **CLINK** their glasses together.

The boys throw their heads back and take a drink. It's plain to see neither OGUN nor ALDO has had a single drop of alcohol before.

ALDO **SPUTTERS** and **CHOKES** on his drink. OGUN is forcing a smile, clearly not enjoying it one bit. Somehow, he finishes the glass.

The BARTENDER smirks and laughs at the two teenagers.

TATTOOED BARTENDER
(laughing)

What's wrong, boys? Never had Flame Nectar before?

OGUN
(raspy, out of breath)
Nope...can't say that I have. Seems like an acquired taste.

ALDO
(pained, coughing)
My throat's on fire!

The BARTENDER pours them two tall glasses of ice water.

TATTOOED BARTENDER
(to OGUN)
I like you, kid. You got spirit. I've seen men twice your size drop to their knees after a swing of that stuff.

OGUN and ALDO drink the ice water as if they've been dehydrated for a few days.

ALDO
(relieved)
Thank you so much...

TATTOOED BARTENDER
Now...what brought you all the way out here?

OGUN
We're trying to track somebody down. Do you know anything about a man named Serebos?

The TATTOOED BARTENDER freezes in place. The CLOAKED FIGURE glances to her left, listening intently to the conversation. This is not noticed by OGUN or ALDO, however.

TATTOOED BARTENDER
Kid...You don't want any part of that guy.

OGUN leans forward.

OGUN
(unshaken)
Trust me, I do.

The BARTENDER sighs and looks to his left and right. He leans over the bar to speak directly to OGUN and ALDO.

TATTOOED BARTENDER
You didn't hear this from me
but...him and his goons passed
through here. Overheard a few of
them blabbing.

OGUN and ALDO share a worried glance for a moment.

ALDO
What did they say?

TATTOOED BARTENDER
They're gonna spend a few days in
Jade Valley to stock up on supplies
before they head to Opal Landing.
He's planning something big.

OGUN
How long ago was this?

TATTOOED BARTENDER
About a day. Kid, I don't know what
grudge you may have with that guy,
but if you value your life, you'll
go back to wherever it is you came
from.

ALDO
We got *skills*, man. We can handle
ourselves.

The BARTENDER rubs his temples.

TATTOOED BARTENDER
(exasperated)
By the Maker, what is wrong with
the youth today...

ALDO begins to bicker with the BARTENDER in the background.
Meanwhile, the CLOAKED FIGURE taps OGUN'S shoulder.

CLOAKED FIGURE
When you're done here, meet me
outside.

OGUN is surprised by this.

OGUN
I'm sorry what—?

As OGUN turns to respond, the CLOAKED FIGURE disappears into the crowd. OGUN looks confused before tapping ALDO on the shoulder.

ALDO
(to the BARTENDER)
And one more thing—!

OGUN
I think we need to head out.
OGUN quickly grabs ALDO by the shoulder and turns him away from the BARTENDER.

As they go to leave, ALDO ends up spilling the MUSCULAR DRUNK'S ale. He turns to ALDO, furious.

ALDO (CONT'D)
(shrinking back, scared)
Oops...

MUSCULAR DRUNK
You little shit...!

Before OGUN can intervene, the massive man snatches ALDO off the ground by his tunic.

OGUN
Hey!

As OGUN goes to help ALDO, the MUSCULAR DRUNK'S two friends, one skinny and one fat, stand against him.

Meanwhile, ALDO struggles against his attacker.

ALDO
(straining)
Easy there, big fella...!

ALDO raises one of his hands, and a **BRIGHT WHITE FLASH** of magic blinds the MUSCULAR DRUNK. He drops ALDO and covers his face with both hands, groaning in agony.

This grabs the attention of his two goons. OGUN uses this moment to grab a glass pint off the bar and breaks it over the FAT DRUNK'S head.

The SKINNY DRUNK spins around, and OGUN lands a quick **PUNCH** to the center of his face. He stumbles back into another patron, who also spills his drink.

This patron turns around and shoves the SKINNY DRUNK. The SKINNY DRUNK pulls back to swing on this patron, who dodges the blow. He ends up hitting a shirtless patron.

An all-out bar fight erupts in the Gilded Chapel.

OGUN grabs ALDO by his arm and the two slip in between the brawling patrons and escape.

EXT. THE GILDED CHAPEL - NIGHT

OGUN and ALDO burst out of the main doors, panting. The sounds of the chaotic rumble are still raging within the establishment.

ALDO
(out of
breath) Holy
shit...!

CRASH! Almost on queue, another bar patron is launched face first out of the same window from earlier.

OGUN
At least we know where we're headed
now...

OGUN spots the CLOAKED FIGURE from before standing in front of a smokey alleyway.

She beckons OGUN inside before vanishing into the shadows.

OGUN (CONT'D)
Aldo, follow me.

ALDO
Huh? Where are we going now?

EXT. COALTOWN STREETS - NIGHT

OGUN moves towards the alley at a brisk pace with ALDO lagging behind him. He moves through the large crowds of people while his best friend struggles to keep up.

ALDO
(annoyed)
Slow down,
man!

OGUN steps into the alleyway.

INT. SMOKEY ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

OGUN moves cautiously into the alleyway, the adjacent buildings casting long shadows. Moonlight spills down from above.

OGUN
(shouting)
Hello...? Are you here...?

WHOOSH! A dark shape speeds past him. OGUN reaches for his sword, turning around quickly.

OGUN (CONT'D)
I'm not sure what you're after, but
...

The CLOAKED FIGURE's voice echoes throughout the alley.

CLOAKED FIGURE
(O.C.)
Why are you looking for Serebos?

OGUN looks around, trying to find where the voice is coming from.

OGUN
Not to sound rude, Miss, but that's
none of your concern. I'd be a
little more comfortable talking
about it if I could actually see
you...

The CLOAKED FIGURE drops down from a high windowsill. She lands on the ground and draws two short swords.

OGUN (CONT'D)
(hesitant)
Look, this doesn't have to get
violent...

She sprints towards him with impressive speed. OGUN draws his sword and their steel collides. **CLANG!** The alleyway is illuminated momentarily from the sparks that fly from their weapons.

OGUN (CONT'D)
Just listen for a second—!

OGUN and the CLOAKED FIGURE duel, but it's less like a fight and more like a dance. Their maneuvers flowing and complimenting each other in a display of beautiful violence.

Suddenly, a **BOLT** of green magical energy flies through the air. The CLOAKED FIGURE **FLIPS** out of the way, as ALDO sprints into the Alley. He stands beside OGUN.

ALDO
Can we go 10 minutes without
starting a fight?!

ALDO'S hands **GLOW**, prepping another magical blast. The cloaked figure crouches, ready to spring forward.

OGUN
(shouting)
Everyone, just **STOP!**
(MORE)

OGUN (CONT'D)
(to the Cloaked Figure)
Look, we aren't working for Serebos
if that's what you think! Can we
please just talk?

ALDO
(to Ogun, incredulous)
Are you out of your-!?

OGUN
(to Aldo)
Hey, relax.

OGUN sheathes his sword. ALDO sighs, frustrated, and dissipates the magic. The cloaked figure stands, sheathing her blades as well. She drops her hood, revealing her face.

Standing before OGUN and ALDO is a young woman of comparable age to them. She is of a medium, tawny brown complexion with piercing eyes. A mane of back-length black hair flows behind her. This is KAIA (kai-uh). OGUN is clearly attracted to her.

KAIA
Fine, introductions are in order
then. My name is Kaia. And you two
are...?

OGUN catches himself staring and snaps out of it.

OGUN
Oh! I'm Ogun.

ALDO
Aldo.

KAIA

Well then, Ogun and Aldo...I'll ask once more. Why are you trying to find Serebos?

OGUN

He attacked our village. Nearly burned it the ground.

KAIA

It's a hobby of his. My condolences.

OGUN

It goes deeper than that, though.

ALDO

Yeah, he's got an artifact that makes him the most dangerous man in Edelia.

OGUN

We have to stop him or everyone is done for.

KAIA

(unconvinced)

Is that so? And why, pray-tell, should I believe either of you?

ALDO

(groans, frustrated)

Ogun, this is a waste of time. We need to leave.

OGUN

Relax, Aldo. We'll need all the help we can get if we're gonna get the Tether back from—

KAIA'S eyes widen in shock.

KAIA

Did you just say "The Tether"? As in the one that the Dragontamer used?

OGUN

Yeah...the very same. You know what it is?

KAIA
I'm familiar with the story, but I
didn't think it was actually real.

ALDO
Oh it's very real, trust us.

OGUN
It's a long story, but time is of
the essence. If you know the
legend, you know the danger we're
all in right now. We need to get to
Jade Valley. Will you help us?

KAIA sighs, clearly weighing her options.

KAIA
I'll help.

OGUN
Perfect! Let's—

KAIA
But on one condition.

ALDO rolls his eyes.

ALDO
(under his breath)
There's always a
catch...

KAIA
I'm not sure what you plan to do
once we find him, but neither of
you are killing Serebos.

ALDO
Huh??

OGUN
I'm sorry?

ALDO
You gonna tell us why at least??

KAIA
I have my reasons. Maybe I'll share
them, maybe I won't. We'll have to
see.

ALDO
That's not happening.

OGUN
I'm gonna have to agree with him on
this. No deal. We'll take our
chances on our own.

KAIA
(chuckles, unconvinced)
Okay, then. Do you know where to
find transportation? You won't last
on foot.

OGUN and ALDO don't respond, but it is very obvious that they
do not.

KAIA (CONT'D)
No? Then do you know how far Jade
Valley is from here? Do you even
know how to get around *this* city?

ALDO is avoiding eye contact while scratching the back of his
head. OGUN raises a finger to respond but can't find the
words.

KAIA (CONT'D)
Didn't think so. You're gonna need
my help, whether you like it or
not. Do we have a deal, gentlemen?

KAIA reaches her hand out expecting a handshake. OGUN looks
at ALDO, who shrugs. OGUN sighs and shakes KAIA'S hand.

OGUN
(begrudging)
Deal.

KAIA gives a satisfied grin.

KAIA
Pleasure doing business. Now,
follow me.

KAIA walks towards the alley's entrance, OGUN and ALDO
following behind.

ALDO
Where are we going?

KAIA
Like I said, we're going to need
transportation.

EXT. COALTOWN STABLES - NIGHT

The trio arrives at the Coaltown Stables. A large variety of
strange beasts are in stalls.

KAIA
Stay here for a moment. I'll handle
this.

KAIA walks towards the ATTENDANT working at the front of the
Stables.

Meanwhile, OGUN and ALDO watch from a distance as she
disappears inside with the attendant.

ALDO
So...you sure we can trust her?

OGUN
She hasn't given us any reason not
to.

ALDO
(dumbfounded)
Hasn't given—Ogun, you **JUST** fought
her.

OGUN
That was a misunderstanding. All
that matters is that she's after
Serebos. It's not like people are
lining up to help us.

ALDO
Does that mean you're ok with the
whole "No killing Serebos" Thing,
then? 'Cause I'm not.

OGUN pauses, hesitant.

OGUN
We'll cross that bridge when we get
there. Finding him is the priority,
for now.

ALDO

At least we agree on that.
Hopefully this girl isn't going to
be a massive pain in the—

Suddenly a cacophony of animal sounds **ERUPTS** from the stable as the beasts **STAMPEDE** out of it. KAIA, on top of a lyneko, **CRASHES** through the front of the stable.

A lyneko is a massive 6-legged beast that looks like a cross between a lynx and a buffalo. (Think Appa from *Avatar the Last Airbender* mixed with the Catbus from *My Neighbor Totoro*.)

ALDO (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Oh **SHIT!**

OGUN

(shocked)

A Lyneko?!?

KAIA, pulling the creature's reins, looks down to the OGUN and ALDO.

KAIA

(smug)

Hey, boys! Hop on!

OGUN and ALDO quickly climb up on to the huge saddle on the creature's back, struggling to stay balanced.

KAIA snaps the reins and the lyneko barrels into the streets of Coaltown.

EXT. COALTOWN STREETS - CONTINUOUS

The lyneko is tearing through the city streets. People dive out of the way to avoid getting trampled. The CITY GUARD has been mobilized to deal with the chaos. Meanwhile, OGUN beams at KAIA, both impressed and smitten.

OGUN

I was expecting you to come back
with horses!

KAIA

(laughing)

Where's the fun in that?

The trio speeds towards the southern gates of Coaltown. The guards are scrambling to lower them before they can escape the city.

KAIA looks worried as the gates continue to lower.

ALDO

I got this!

ALDO fires **BOLTS** of pink magic at the guards. Suddenly, clouds of pink bubbles **SPEW UNCONTROLLABLY** from their mouths. This occupies the guards long enough for them to leave Coaltown.

OGUN, ALDO, and KAIA ride into the wilderness beyond the walled city. The lights and smog fade off into the distance as our trio escape into the night.

EXT. GRASSY BLUFF - NIGHT

The lyneko begins to **BREATHE HEAVILY** and slow down. KAIA, noticing this, scratches behind its ears.

KAIA

(to the Lyneko)

Easy there, big girl.

(to OGUN and ALDO)

KAIA (CONT'D)

Our ride's getting tired. We need to stop for the night.

She pulls the beast over in a grassy bluff that overlooks a river valley below. As the lyneko settles itself on the ground, the trio slide off its back. KAIA scratches behind its ears again, the lyneko responds by **PURRING** softly.

OGUN

How far are we from Jade Valley?

KAIA

Not very. It's about half a day's journey.

ALDO

(to Kaia)

So, you're willing to start an animal jailbreak for two strangers. Did we make that good of an impression?

KAIA
Don't get ahead of yourself. It was
more for their sake than yours.
Those animals were being abused.

KAIA walks towards the nearby woods. She stops and looks back at
OGUN and ALDO.

KAIA (CONT'D)
Make yourselves useful and start
setting up camp.

KAIA gathers firewood.

ALDO
(to OGUN)
You know...I can't get a read on
her.

OGUN
I'll talk to her, then. Sit tight.

ALDO
(scoffs)
If you insist.

OGUN walks over to speak with KAIA.

EXT. WOODS EDGE - CONTINUOUS

OGUN walks to the edge of the nearby forest and finds KAIA.
He speaks up quickly to grab her attention.

OGUN
(awkward)
Um...Hey! Kaia!

KAIA looks over her shoulder, and then returns to what she was
doing.

KAIA
Oh, good. Put those hands to use.

She gestures to the ground, pointing at many of the fallen
branches. OGUN reaches down and begins to gather up a bundle
of the dry wood.

It takes a moment of awkward silence before OGUN speaks up
once more.

OGUN

So...why are you helping us? Be honest.

KAIA

You're after Serebos. So am I. It's a pretty simple concept.

OGUN

If we're gonna be working together, we need to be on the same page.

KAIA

(condescending)

Are we not already?

She tosses a piece of wood to OGUN, who barely catches it.

OGUN

(slightly annoyed)

Not quite. I'm talking about transparency here.

KAIA

Why are you so interested?

OGUN

I'm putting my life in your hands. If you're going to put yours in mine, I need to know why you're doing this.

KAIA stops in her tracks for a moment. She lets out a deep sigh.

KAIA

Serebos...hurt someone very dear to me. He has a lot to answer for.

KAIA turns to face OGUN.

KAIA (CONT'D)

I can imagine you'd relate to that.

OGUN

Yeah...I definitely can.

KAIA

Good.

KAIA gets very close to OGUN, who moves back slightly startled, slightly enamored.

She smiles playfully, and punches OGUN'S shoulder. KAIA walks past him, heading back towards the clearing.

KAIA (CONT'D)

Don't forget what we shook on!

OGUN goes to speak up, but KAIA is too far away to hear him.

OGUN

That's...actually...what I wanted to talk...about...

OGUN sighs before following her back to camp.

EXT. GRASSY BLUFF - MOMENTS LATER

ALDO SNAPS his fingers, lighting the firewood that OGUN and KAIA gathered.

The three are gathered around the small campfire, seated on their bedrolls. The Lyneko is fast asleep behind KAIA.

OGUN

When we get to Jade Valley tomorrow, first order of business is finding wherever Serebos is holed up.

KAIA

There's this huge inn at the center of town. We should start there.

ALDO

You've been to Jade Valley?

KAIA

Oh yeah. A couple times. I've been traveling for years. There, Sapphire Reef, Opal Landing, Ruby Heights...

OGUN

All over the map, huh? This is the furthest either of us have been away from home.

KAIA

Would you believe me if I said I wasn't shocked?

ALDO
(sarcastic)
What gave it away?

KAIA
How honest do you want me to be?

The three share a short laugh.

KAIA (CONT'D)
Rest up. Be ready to move at first
light.

She lies down, facing away from OGUN and ALDO.

ALDO
Not too talkative, are you?

A clump of dirt sails dangerously close to ALDO'S face. KAIA, clearly having thrown the dirt, speaks up while facing the lyneko.

KAIA
(smug)
Good night, Aldo! Good night, Ogun!

ALDO scowls at KAIA. OGUN puts his hand on his friend's shoulder.

OGUN
Relax.

ALDO
Yeah, yeah. Whatever.

ALDO looks up at the stars above them. OGUN notices this and looks up as well.

The night sky, fully illuminated by full twin moons and a fully visible nebula of stars.

OGUN smirks.

OGUN
Still think we have a better view
back home?

ALDO pauses for a second, thinking.

ALDO
Hmmm....yeah I do. This is
definitely a close
second.

OGUN tilts his head in confusion. ALDO gives OGUN a mischievous grin, clearly picking on his friend.

OGUN
(playful)
Aw, shut up.

OGUN lightly punches ALDO'S shoulder. The two share a short laugh.

OGUN (CONT'D)
Just stay on your toes. We have to
be ready for whatever's coming our
way. Rest up while we can.

ALDO
Y'know I was thinking the same
thing. Talk to you...
(yawns, sleepy)
...in the morning....

ALDO flops down on his bedroll and **SNORES** loudly immediately, fast asleep. OGUN settles himself down, gazing at the stars above and shutting his eyes.

INT. OGUN'S NIGHTMARE - RHODON'S FORGE

As this sequence begins, OGUN is seen helping his father, RHODON (row-dawn), forge. He's holding a piece of molten metal with tongs as RHODON hammers it.

RHODON
Keep it still, son...

OGUN turns away from the forge so sparks don't fly in his face.

OGUN
Yes, sir.

Suddenly, RHODON drops his hammer. OGUN goes to pick it up with his back facing his father.

OGUN (CONT'D)
I got it, Dad.

We don't see RHODON'S face, but his voice sounds hollow and deadpan

RHODON
(O.C., deadpan)
Son, why didn't you listen?

OGUN
I'm sorry?

OGUN turns around to see his dad staring blankly into space.

OGUN (CONT'D)
Dad, what are you talking about...?

OGUN approaches his father concerned.

OGUN (CONT'D)
Dad?

RHODON hasn't looked at Ogun.

RHODON
(deadpan)
The Tether, Ogun.

OGUN
What--?

RHODON'S head unnaturally **SNAPS** towards his son, and he suddenly **BURSTS INTO FLAMES**. OGUN stumbles back, horrified.

RHODON walks forward unbothered by the fire.

RHODON
(deadpan, hollow)
Actions have consequences, son.

OGUN
(scared)
I didn't mean--!

RHODON
Why didn't you listen...?

RHODON reaches towards OGUN. OGUN reflexively covers his face. For a moment, nothing happens. He uncovers his face and sees that he's all alone now.

Suddenly, the room completely crumbles away.

EXT. OGUN'S NIGHTMARE - BURNING VILLAGE SQUARE

OGUN is now in the burning village square. SEREBOS's laughter echoes throughout the area. The flames coagulate and then form into the man himself.

OGUN backs away, fearful. The burning image then rushes at both OGUN and the camera.

EXT. GRASSY BLUFF - NIGHT

OGUN **SNAPS AWAKE** from his nightmare, breathing heavily for a few moments. He quickly examines his surroundings.

OGUN sees that the campfire has gone out, now just a smoldering pit of ashes. He sees ALDO drooling and snoring beside him.

He then looks to where KAIA was sleeping, but sees she isn't there. He looks off towards the cliff's edge and sees KAIA gazing at the stars underneath the light of their two moons.

OGUN rises and goes to approach her.

EXT. GRASSY CLIFF EDGE - MOMENTS LATER

KAIA notices OGUN approaching and acknowledges him as he sits beside her.

KAIA
Trouble sleeping?

OGUN nods.

OGUN
Yeah. Nightmares?

KAIA
Mhm. I thought I'd be used to them
by now.

KAIA chuckles sadly to herself, letting her head hang.

OGUN
Well, why do you say that?

KAIA looks up at OGUN.

KAIA
It's a long story...

OGUN
We've got plenty of time.

KAIA laughs softly.

KAIA
(amused)
You're really nosy, you know that?

OGUN
I prefer "curious."

KAIA
Well, Mr. Curious...I'll tell you
about my nightmare, if you tell me
about yours.

OGUN is taken aback by this.

OGUN
(hesitant)
Look I don't know if-

KAIA
Come on now...like you said we've
got plenty of time.

OGUN
It was about...my dad dying.

KAIA is startled by this.

KAIA
Oh...I'm sorry, I didn't mean-

OGUN
No, it's fine. You didn't know.
It's my fault he's even gone in the
first place.

KAIA
What happened?

OGUN
My dad had this map and I didn't
know where it led, so I took Aldo
with me and we found the Tether.
Because of that, Serebos tracked
us down.

KAIA
By the Maker...

OGUN
It turns out my Dad and Serebos had history. He still killed him without hesitation. Like it was the easiest thing in the world. He died because of me...

OGUN avoids making eye contact with KAIA, lowering his head. KAIA places a hand on his back.

KAIA
There was no way you could've known...

OGUN
If I hadn't disobeyed him, it wouldn't have happened in the first place. I have to make this right.

He looks to the night sky, focusing on the thousands of glittering stars. OGUN lets out a small chuckle.

OGUN (CONT'D)
I always wanted to travel. See the country one day. Didn't think it would happen because of something like this...

KAIA looks up at the stars as well.

KAIA
You know...my mom told me that the stars were a gift from the Maker. It was His way of allowing our loved ones to watch us from the Land Beyond.

OGUN
Did you believe her?

KAIA
Not at first. But now...it's different.

Realization dawns across OGUN's face

KAIA nods.

OGUN

You lost your mother?

KAIA

We can thank our mutual enemy for that.

(pauses, holding back tears)

She didn't deserve what he put her through...

OGUN

Then let's make him pay for it.

KAIA stands up, turning away from OGUN.

KAIA

It's more complicated than that.

OGUN stands up as well.

OGUN

Then we can—

KAIA

I appreciate the sentiment, Ogun, but this is something I'd rather keep to myself.

(pauses, sincere)

Thanks for watching the stars with me, though.

OGUN

Maybe, if this all goes well, we could do it again.

KAIA smiles softly.

KAIA

I'd like that.

KAIA walks back to the camp and lies down to sleep. OGUN turns and looks up at the stars once more, before shutting his eyes once again.