

VISIONARIES (SLOW DEATHS)

Written by

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SLOW DEATHS

INT. BLOOD TOWER - JARNO'S ROOM - DAY

Radon stands at the doorway. He watches Slave Ira sit an old man down. A steel collar binds her neck, just like the other slaves.

The old man is JARNO OF THE FIRST BLOOD, a former Arch Seer. He is the father of Graezen & Radon. His eyes are clinched shut.

Ira notices Radon and bows.

IRA  
Arch Seer Radon.

Radon moves the curtains to the side, filling the room with daylight.

RADON  
It's beautiful outside. You don't need these candles.

JARNO  
You can go get those items for me now Ira.

IRA  
I'll be back for your prayer.

JARNO  
Good girl.

SFX: Ira exits and shuts the door behind her.

RADON  
Slave Ira takes good care of you?

JARNO  
Yes. And we both enjoy the irony.

RADON  
What irony?

JARNO  
Former Arch Seer dependent on a dead-eye slave.

RADON  
All she can do is see.

JARNO

Something I can't. And apparently,  
something you can't either.

RADON

What are you talking about?

JARNO

You have the Grand Herald. The only  
person that can see the future. And  
you can't see why listening to him  
is vital for Vision Rock.

RADON

Did you hear his vision? Dead-eye  
militants from the other side. A  
Multi-Eye Beholder.

JARNO

Even if it sounds ridiculous, how  
can you tell him otherwise? Do you  
carry the multi-ring blue eyes now?

RADON

No.

JARNO

Then you can not question what he  
saw.

RADON

He's been wrong before. Remember  
what he told you about me?

JARNO

That's what this is about?

RADON

If he was wrong before. He can be  
wrong again.

JARNO

I did not give you my eyes so the  
dead-eyes can take Vision Rock from  
us. I gave it to you to extend our  
legacy. Don't let your pride cost  
us everything. Fix it.

RADON

Fine... I'll talk to him.

JARNO

Don't talk. Listen.

RADON  
Anything else?

JARNO  
What's going on with your brother?

RADON  
He carried out the assignment.  
Lexie killed herself while he was  
there.

JARNO  
What about the baby?

RADON  
He plans to continue with the  
ceremony. I was on my way to tell  
him no. People might think it's his  
daughter.

JARNO  
He'll still do it anyway.

RADON  
That's because he knows you are  
protecting him. He challenges me  
every opportunity he can.

JARNO  
You're no better. Giving him Lexie  
as his first assignment. That was  
uncalled for.

RADON  
He needed a reminder of his place.  
Still does in my opinion.

JARNO  
You can't leave your brother to rot  
in a cell. Bad enough people think  
you had a hand in Jaxen's death.

RADON  
Speaking of, I burned the paper  
Graezen found.

JARNO  
Good. Now find who put it in the  
library in the first place. That  
wasn't a coincidence. Someone is  
trying to divide this family.

RADON

Do you think it's true? Jaxen being  
poisoned.

JARNO

No.

EXT. BURNING CANDLE - SLAVES CAMP - DAY

**SFX: A shovel bangs against a rock as it plows into the dirt.**

Slaves are packed into one camp. They all have on a black  
rubber mask that only features their dead-eyes.

Graezen stands on the other side of the fence.

One slave continues shoveling. He has the number 3999 stamped  
on the forehead of his mask. This is UDO. He has the body of  
a warrior and scars of a slave.

GRAEZEN

It is pointless. The slaves will  
die.

UDO

We're already dying.

GRAEZEN

Not from being burned alive or your  
heads chopped off.

UDO

Dying from diseases are worse.

GRAEZEN

I'll speak to the healer. We can  
fix that.

UDO

You think that's what needs fixing?

GRAEZEN

You want freedom.

UDO

Deserve freedom.

GRAEZEN

I agree. But it won't happen over  
night. And there is a way we can do  
this without bloodshed.

UDO

What do you want us to do? Ask your brother nicely? Your other brother tried to free slaves with words, then he was poisoned.

GRAEZEN

We don't know that for sure.

UDO

You honestly think he died of natural causes? Which side are you on? Will you fight with us or against us?

GRAEZEN

Your plan won't work.

UDO

Yes or no.

GRAEZEN

I'm giving you a better alternative.

UDO

Yes or no.

GRAEZEN

You kill my brother then what? Walk away alive?

UDO

Yes or no!

GRAEZEN

Let me be your inside guy. Start from the inside. Fights aren't won by those that just force themselves down the middle. You need a plan.

UDO

And you can give me that plan?

GRAEZEN

Yes. But I need you to trust me and be patient. I'll help you get your freedom.

UDO

Okay inside man. I'll hide that baby for you. But I will carry the rebellion as I planned, unless you set us free.

GRAEZEN

That's fair.

UDO

You got until the end of the week.

GRAEZEN

I can't free slaves that quick?

UDO

Better get to work.

INT. BLOOD TOWER - GUEST ROOM - DAY

Radon knocks on the open door. Lor stops packing his bag.

LOR

Arch Seer.

RADON

How did you like the guest room?

LOR

Staying in the Blood Tower is  
always a treat.

RADON

Why are you leaving so soon?

LOR

I fulfilled my purpose. If I have  
another vision, I'll be back to  
report it.

RADON

I doubt any other vision you have  
can top the one you came here with.  
It seemed like the end of Vision  
Rock.

LOR

And the beginning of something  
else. Well, we will see eventually.

RADON

Only if we do nothing. I've given  
your last vision some thought. It  
would be stupid of me to ignore it.  
I apologize for how I responded.

LOR

You don't have to apologize. You have the pressure of leading Vision Rock.

RADON

And I need your help to do that. Send word to the other city's generals. We will hold a council meeting.

LOR

Thank you Arch Seer. I will get right on it.

EXT. BURNING CANDLE - VISION FLAME - NIGHT

Graezen carries Mya in his arms. She's wrapped in a white blanket. The Vision Flame candle brightens the city in the late hours of the night.

Graezen walks up to the First Blood guards manning the entrance of Vision Flame. To the side of the Candle, there's a row of slaves passing logs up to Vision Flame.

The guard pours a few drops of a green liquid inside of Mya's mouth.

**SFX: Mya coughs.**

The guard steps aside and lets Graezen through.

INT. VISION FLAME - CONTINUOUS

Graezen enters Vision Flame and looks at the slaves tossing big logs inside of a huge furnace. They all have their slave masks on.

A guard, FIRIZ OF THE FIRST BLOOD, watches the slaves like a hawk. She keeps her left hand on the pommel of her sword and a whip in her right hand.

INT. VISION FLAME - UPPER LEVEL - CONTINUOUS

On the upper level of Vision Flame, First Blood mothers form a line. They all have a dead-eye baby wrapped in white.

There's another guard posted inside of the room. This is ARZON OF THE FIRST BLOOD.

Graezen watches a mother place her baby on a table. Then she pushes the baby into the fire. A door slams shut and conceals the flames.

The mom drops to her knees.

Graezen looks at the line of women. He sees Tasha pushed up to the furnace by Arzon.

ARZON

Move.

Tasha stands in front of the flames.

INT. VISION FLAME - LOWER LEVEL - SAME TIME

On the lower level, dead-eye slaves continue throwing logs inside of the furnace. Since the logs are heavy, five slaves form an assembly line.

The slave at the end of the assembly line stops and looks at the ceiling.

**SFX: Firiz cracks her whip on the slave's back.**

The slave hunches over from the pain, then he straightens up as if nothing happened.

They pass a log that looks different. Unlike the other bare logs, this one is wrapped with branches and small leaves.

That log works its way down the assembly line and gets thrown into the flames. Black smoke slowly rises.

The slaves look at each other. Then they pass a another log. This hollow log has a blanket stuffed inside.

Tasha walks down the stairs from the upper level. She's being escorted by Arzon.

Black smoke continues to rise.

Firiz approaches the furnace. She coughs and drops to the ground.

Arzon pushes Tasha to the side and runs to Firiz.

ARZON

Firiz!

Just as he gets closer to her, he coughs and collapses.

Tasha grabs the hollow log from slave 1029 in front of the furnace. She gently places it down and wiggles the blanket out, which wraps a baby girl.

INT. VISION FLAME - UPPER LEVEL - CONTINUOUS

Graezen coughs as he sees black smoke rising.

Tasha runs up the steps.

All of the First Blood Mothers turn to Graezen.

GRAEZEN

So the rebellion starts with me  
dying.

TASHA

Shut up about the rebellion.

A slave runs upstairs. He rushes to Graezen and tries to grab Mya.

TASHA (CONT'D)

Give him the baby.

GRAEZEN

No.

TASHA

The slave needs to leave with the  
child before the guards wake up.

GRAEZEN

You're working with Udo?

TASHA

You want to save the baby or not?

Graezen hands Mya to the slave.

TASHA (CONT'D)

You're going to pass out any minute  
now. When you wake up, this is who  
you get to burn.

Tasha gives the baby that was in the log to Graezen. Then she turns to all of the First Blood mothers.

TASHA (CONT'D)

Wipe the gel off.

She wipes a clear gel from under her nose. The gel counteracts the black smoke.

TASHA (CONT'D)

We need to pass out like the guards. Make sure the slaves do the same.

GRAEZEN

Is she dead?

TASHA

Not yet.

GRAEZEN

I'm not burning this baby.

TASHA

Yes you are.

GRAEZEN

I can't.

TASHA

Then we all burn once they realize this wasn't an accident. And all this will be for nothing. You have to burn the baby. She's a slave. You'll be doing her a favor.

All of the mothers lie down. Tasha does the same.

The room fills with black smoke.

TASHA (CONT'D)

Now you have a sample size of what we go through.

INT. BLOOD TOWER - GRAEZEN'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Saiya looks outside the window of Graezen's room. Black smoke rises from the top of Vision Flame.

EXT. SLAVES CAMP - SAME TIME

Udo unbuckles his mask and slides it off in Slaves camp. Sweat drips from his face. He looks at the black smoke rising.

EXT. VISION FLAME - LATER THAT NIGHT

Graezen stands bunched together with the First Blood mothers outside of Vision Flame.

Boul marches up to Firiz.

BOUL  
Did the Arch Seer's brother burn  
his assignment?

FIRIZ  
Yes.

BOUL  
Before or after the black smoke.

FIRIZ  
After.

Boul walks over to Graezen and the mothers.

BOUL  
The Arch Seer wants to see you  
Graezen.

INT. BLOOD TOWER - DINING HALL - NIGHT

Lady Seer, ETHENIA OF THE FIRST BLOOD, pours herself a glass of wine. She carries a smaller version of the mantle on her back. She's a little older than Radon, but her beauty still radiates.

Radon sits at the opposite end of the long dining table.

ETHENIA  
I saw the Grand Herald. You told  
him to stay.

RADON  
It doesn't make sense for him to  
leave and come right back.

ETHENIA  
So the other generals are coming?

RADON  
Yes.

ETHENIA  
Merrin of the Green Vain?

RADON  
Every general.

ETHENIA  
Were you going to tell me, or was I  
going to find out when he's  
knocking on our door?

RADON  
I was waiting for the right time. I  
told you what Lor saw. We need to  
move on from the past.

ETHENIA  
He killed Jaxen.

RADON  
You can't say that.

ETHENIA  
How can you defend him?

RADON  
Do you know how many theories I've  
heard? Jaxen was killed by the  
Green Vain because he wanted to  
abolish slavery. I killed him  
because I wanted to become the Arch  
Seer. You killed him so you can be  
with me. He killed himself because  
he could not deal with the  
pressure. The fact is, he was sick.

ETHENIA  
With something Healer Ion has never  
seen before.

RADON  
Healer Ion was a traitor.

ETHENIA  
That has nothing to do with the  
autopsy report.

RADON  
He manipulated Jaxen. The whole  
freeing the slaves idea.

ETHENIA  
Was his idea.

RADON  
Planted by Ion. Jaxen was weak!

**SFX: Ethenia drops her fork on her plate.**

RADON (CONT'D)  
Earlier you said Graezen was bothering you with all these questions about Jaxen. And now, you sound just like him.

ETHENIA  
I just don't trust the Green Vain.

**SFX: KNOCK! KNOCK!**

RADON  
We'll talk about this later. Come in!

Graezen enters the room.

GRAEZEN  
You wanted to see me?

RADON  
Yes. What happened at Vision Flame?

GRAEZEN  
Slaves burned the wrong log. I passed out. Everyone did.

RADON  
A lot has been going on lately. It's starting to make me wonder, who can I trust? Is there anything you need to tell me?

GRAEZEN  
The slaves are reaching a boiling point. You--

RADON  
Yes.

GRAEZEN  
Could go lighter on the them.

RADON  
Are they going to protest?

GRAEZEN  
That could be the starting ground.

RADON  
Starting ground for what? A rebellion?

GRAEZEN

Maybe.

RADON

You got too close to her little brother. BOUL!

**SFX: Boul opens the door and steps inside the Dining Hall.**

RADON (CONT'D)

Where's my brother's slave.

BOUL

I last saw her in Graezen's room.

GRAEZEN

Why do you need her?

RADON

Who's leading the rebellion Graezen?

GRAEZEN

I don't know.

RADON

Bring her to me Boul.

GRAEZEN

Wait. What's going on?

RADON

Who's leading the rebellion?

GRAEZEN

I don't know what are you talking about.

RADON

Tell me. Or I will have every First Blood guard take turns on your little girlfriend until she screams me the name.

(pause)

Fine. Boul!

**SFX: Boul opens the door and walks out.**

GRAEZEN

Wait. Slave Udo!

**SFX: Boul continues walking.**

END OF SHOW