

VISIONARIES (CHOOSING SIDES)

Written by

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## CHOOSING SIDES

EXT. BURNING CANDLE - SHORE - DAY

In the early morning, three boats line up on the shore. The First Blood LEAD PATROLMAN and other First Blood guards arrive to intervene.

**SFX: Waves crash onto the shore.**

The first boat has men with the single-ring green eyes. GENERAL MERRIN OF THE GREEN VEIN stands at the front of his boat. His slender build doesn't scream general. However, his piercing gaze tells another story. It reads determination and dedication to his beliefs. Five GREEN VEIN guards stand behind him.

The second boat has men with the single-ring orange eyes. GENERAL LOKIN OF THE SUN-WARRIORS stands at the front of his boat. Lokin's physique indicates he's a balanced warrior, both strength and speed. He takes a sip from his canteen, then passes it down to his men. Three SUN-WARRIOR guards stand behind him.

The third boat has one man with the single-ring grey eyes. This is GENERAL PRICE OF THE GREYBORNS. Price stands tall, firmly holding a spear matching his towering height.

The Lead Patrolman goes straight to GreyBorn's boat.

LEAD PATROLMAN

Where are your men?

PRICE

Not here.

LEAD PATROLMAN

I can see that. The Arch Seer invited you plus three guards. Why are they not here?

PRICE

They didn't care to see the Arch Seer. And I didn't feel the need to drag them here for protection. Still don't.

The Lead Patrolman walks past the Sun Warrior's boat and goes straight for the Green Vein's boat.

LEAD PATROLMAN

You were allowed three guards.

MERRIN

I trust this city as much as it trusts me.

LEAD PATROLMAN

Pick two to stay.

MERRIN

Then we all stay.

LOKIN

Oh let him go with his guards. They won't take down Burning Candle because of two more men.

LEAD PATROLMAN

No one asked you Sun-Warrior.

LOKIN

It's General. And I am telling you patrolman.

The other Sun-Warriors place their hands on their daggers, ready to fight for their leader.

LEAD PATROLMAN

Guards. Escort these men to the Blood Tower.

INT. BLOOD TOWER - CONFERENCE HALL - DAY

Inside the conference hall, Radon pours wine for METZ OF THE FIRST BLOOD. Metz carries the single-ring red eyes. A band wraps around his head with an eye made of gold at the center of his forehead. The band is the symbol for his status, the Arch Seer's third eye.

RADON

How was Weeping Soil? Did you get what you need?

METZ

Yes.

RADON

And?

METZ

It'll help preserve the light. Even after the transplant.

RADON

Good. So we can move on to phase two.

METZ

On your orders.

RADON

Lor had a vision. He saw a war taking place three years from now. And someone else as the Multi-eye Beholder.

METZ

Did he see who?

RADON

He couldn't get a clear sight of him.

METZ

So it could be you.

RADON

Apparently, this Beholder will lead the war against me. And visionaries will follow. I can go to war against people in my own city. The Beholder can be from another city. I hate not knowing.

METZ

We should draw the eyes out. Make every city report any above average visionary.

RADON

That means explaining that a Beholder will exist. And might exist outside of Burning Candle. Our bloodline wouldn't matter anymore.

METZ

You believe Lor?

RADON

I can't take the chance of not looking into his vision.

METZ

Then you'll need stronger eyes to keep the mantle. I need visionaries alive to give you that.

RADON

Do whatever it takes. Get it done discreetly.

INT. BLOOD TOWER - GRAEZEN'S ROOM - DAY

Graezen enters his room pulling on Saiya's arm.

GRAEZEN

Just give me a second to explain.

SAIYA

I trusted you.

GRAEZEN

I had no choice. My brother threatened to hurt you.

**SFX: Graezen shuts the door.**

SAIYA

Hurt me for what?

GRAEZEN

He knew about the rebellion. He knows about us. He used that to make me give him Udo's name.

SAIYA

You expect me to believe that? I tell you about the rebellion, which you wanted to prevent, and suddenly Udo is about to get executed.

GRAEZEN

He won't get executed.

SAIYA

He's chained on the post. The trial is in a couple of hours.

GRAEZEN

I'll get him off.

SAIYA

How?

GRAEZEN

Just trust me. Please?

SAIYA

Fine.

GRAEZEN  
There's something I need you to do.

SAIYA  
What?

GRAEZEN  
You have to be an outside slave  
again.

SAIYA  
What?

GRAEZEN  
Distance yourself from me and my  
brother. Just until you fall off  
his radar.

SAIYA  
This rebellion only works if me or  
Udo is on the inside.

GRAEZEN  
I'm on the inside. You have to  
trust me.

SAIYA  
I don't. Not with this.

GRAEZEN  
I not asking Saiya. I already  
changed your assignment.

SAIYA  
You what?

GRAEZEN  
I had no choice. It's for your  
safety.

SAIYA  
Udo was right. At the end of the  
day, you'll always be my master.

INT. BLOOD TOWER - CONFERENCE HALL - DAY

The Generals sit at the glass table in the conference room:  
Grand Herald, Lor of the Truth Seekers. Merrin, General of  
the Green Vein. Lokin, General of the Sun-Warriors. And  
Price, General of the GreyBorns.

Two guards stand behind each General, except for Price  
GreyBorn.

MERRIN

Maybe you can help us settle a bet  
GreyBorn. Which is the best city?  
You're the only one that has to  
pass through each one just to get  
here.

LOR

That's inappropriate.

MERRIN

Relax old man. You don't have to  
suck up to the Arch Seer. At least  
wait until he gets here.

LOR

I'm second to the Arch Seer,  
ranking me higher than you. Do not  
call me old man.

LOKIN

I guess they don't teach ranking in  
Weeping Soil?

PRICE

Or morals.

MERRIN

We teach our people how to make  
their city thrive. We don't have  
starving citizens, diseases, or  
trash from the other side.

PRICE

I judge a city by its character. We  
are honest people. Your people  
however--

MERRIN

You're alone GreyBorn.

PRICE

And you only have two guards. I'd  
say we're about even.

**SFX: The door swings open.**

Lor jumps out of his seat. Lokin and Merrin follow. Price  
reluctantly rises last.

RADON

Please generals, sit. Wine!

A slave boy runs into the room with a bottle of wine.

RADON (CONT'D)  
Give it to me. Friends.

Radon pours for Lor.

RADON (CONT'D)  
Our bond needs to be stronger than  
ever.

Radon pours for Lokin

RADON (CONT'D)  
We need trust.

Radon pours for Merrin.

RADON (CONT'D)  
We need to forget our past.

Radon pours for Price.

RADON (CONT'D)  
For a common goal. Survival. The  
Grand Herald saw a war coming three  
years from now. He saw a combat  
aircraft raining bullets on our  
people.

MERRIN  
A plane? How is that possible?

LOR  
It came from the other side.

LOKIN  
There are still survivors?

LOR  
More than just a group of  
survivors. They are an army. I saw  
them destroy the Blood Tower in  
seconds.

MERRIN  
Of course they did. Swords and  
spears can't compete with modern  
warfare.

LOR  
It's their modern weapons that  
started the spores epidemic.



MERRIN

And we're next on their war path. Why not create weapons to protect us. The past generals of my city had slaves that were scientists and soldiers. We learned a lot about the weapons they used during World War III.

LOR

Arch Seer, what General Merrin is suggesting would be a mistake. We lasted this long because we banned all types of technology on Vision Rock. That's been our custom since The Great Diviner. It would be a shame to break that because of Dead-eyes.

MERRIN

Then how do we match their missiles? And that's the easy one. What if they plan to use chemical warfare against us?

LOKIN

We will use our eyes.

MERRIN

None of our eyes can stop the spores plague.

LOKIN

So your genius idea is to follow the dead-eyes footsteps. Fight chemical with chemical. And more than likely infect Vision Rock with spores too.

MERRIN

I'm saying we are the evolved race, living like the dead-eyes did in the 1800's. We won't make the mistakes they made with technology.

LOR

All we need to do is strike first Arch Seer. The war won't happen for another three years.

MERRIN

Strike how?

LOR

We go to them instead of waiting  
for them to come to us.

MERRIN

We don't know what's out there.

LOR

And they don't know we're coming!

RADON

That's enough. We can't wait for  
whatever's out there to come here.  
And we can't abandon our way of  
life. I agree with Lor. It's worth  
investigating. We all should go out  
there.

PRICE

And what do we get for going out  
there Arch Seer?

RADON

Your life isn't enough Price?

PRICE

Resources for my people to live  
would be nice. GreyStone suffers  
more than any other city.

RADON

This is about the dead-eye  
remainders across the sea. Not our  
cities.

PRICE

You just said forget each other's  
past. Helping GreyStone would be a  
great way to start.

RADON

Run it by Metz. He oversees  
supplies.

PRICE

I've spoken to your third eye  
before. Twice actually. Nothing  
happened.

RADON

Try again.

Price and Radon stare at each other. General Lokin pours  
Price some wine in hopes to ease the tension.

LOKIN  
Do we have to decide now?

RADON  
You have until tomorrow.

Radon stands. Every general follows as respect.

RADON (CONT'D)  
Generals.

INT. BLOOD TOWER - GRAEZEN'S ROOM - DAY

Graezen lays on his bed and tosses a seep berry into his mouth.

He chews and a puff of smoke comes out.

Jarno opens the door. Slave Ira guides him inside.

JARNO  
Ira. Wait outside for me.

Ira bows her head and exits.

JARNO (CONT'D)  
You just saw Lexie overdose on those berries. And you continue to eat them.

**SFX: Graezen coughs as he exhales.**

GRAEZEN  
I didn't know you were coming here.

JARNO  
I don't know what else to do with you. Getting high. Involved with a slave. Disrupting the eternal sleep ceremony. Everything you're not suppose to do!

GRAEZEN  
What happened at the ceremony wasn't my fault. And I told Slave Saiya that she won't serve in the Tower anymore.

JARNO  
For the family or for her?

GRAEZEN  
The family.

JARNO

She will stay in the Tower to serve Ethenia.

GRAEZEN

Why?

JARNO

Why not? Are you hiding something?

GRAEZEN

Is this you or Radon?

JARNO

It was the slave's idea. She went and begged Ethenia herself. And since you won't work her for information, Ethenia is up for the task.

GRAEZEN

Makes you happy doesn't it? You always considered Ethenia more family than me.

JARNO

She doesn't make poor choices that cost the family.

GRAEZEN

I didn't get these eyes by choice. And that's what all of this is really about.

JARNO

How long do you plan on using that as a weakness?

GRAEZEN

You still treat it like one. You hate me because of it. You made me kill Lexie's baby.

JARNO

I'm not the Arch Seer Graezen.

GRAEZEN

You could've stopped him!

JARNO

I was too busy preventing your brother from locking you up.

GRAEZEN

Because of the ceremony? The wrong log burned.

JARNO

I'm not talking about the log Graezen. Every time you bring up Jaxen's death, you make people think Radon was behind it.

GRAEZEN

Was he?

JARNO

How can you ask that?

GRAEZEN

How could he force me to kill Lexie's baby?

JARNO

We all had to do things we didn't want to do in order to contribute to this family.

GRAEZEN

What did my family ever do for me?

**SFX: Jarno hits the table.**

JARNO

Kept you alive. You should be on your knees kissing my feet for that. Not crying that life isn't fair.

GRAEZEN

I thanked Jaxen for that.

JARNO

Jaxen wasn't the Arch Seer. It was my order to break the law for you.

GRAEZEN

Based off of Jaxen's request. And the only reason you went with it was because Lor had a vision of Jaxen becoming the Multi-Eye Beholder.

JARNO

It doesn't matter why I did it. You're standing here because of it.

GRAEZEN

You expect to be called father of  
the century for keeping your son  
alive?

JARNO

IRA!

**SFX: Slave Ira opens the door and enters the room.**

JARNO (CONT'D)

I've carried you on my shoulders  
for too long. You're on your own  
now.

INT. BLOOD TOWER - RADON'S BEDROOM - DAY

Inside Radon's bedroom, two slaves hold the Arch Seer's  
mantle. Radon's eyes glow. Each spoke catches on fire, one by  
one.

The slave boys puts the heavy mantle on his back.

Graezen stands by the doorway.

RADON

You're so weak. You let that slave  
girl control you.

GRAEZEN

This isn't about her. It's about  
you preventing bloodshed. Show the  
people you have mercy.

RADON

Oh I am showing mercy. I'm not  
killing every slave. Just him.

GRAEZEN

Killing him will spark the  
rebellion. They won't stand down  
and--

RADON

If they rebel we will win.

GRAEZEN

And some Visionaries will die in  
the process.

RADON

I know what I'm doing Graezen.

GRAEZEN

You're overdoing everything because you're the Arch Seer by default.

RADON

Leave.

The slave boys run out the room. The last one that runs out shuts the door.

GRAEZEN

I didn't mean it like that.

RADON

How did you mean it?

GRAEZEN

I meant that's how Vision Rock sees you. I want to change that way of thinking. That's what's best for Vision Rock.

RADON

You mean your dead-eyed friends? You know, the day is going to come when you have to choose a side.

GRAEZEN

The dead-eyes like me as much as the Visionaries.

RADON

And you'll still have to choose.

GRAEZEN

I choose visionaries. I'm doing it now. With my advice.

RADON

I need your advice?

GRAEZEN

A lot of people want you to fail. They want the family to fail.

RADON

It's been like that since the first Arch Seer.

GRAEZEN

This is different. I'm a dead-eye visionary allowed to live because of our father. You were given the multi-ring eyes from our father.

(MORE)

GRAEZEN (CONT'D)

You don't think that bothers the other Visionaries? Being a ruthless Arch Seer is something they already know. And given how you got there, it won't work. They'll still look at you the same. Change the narrative. Radon the Merciful is better than Radon the Borrower.

RADON

You think they'll give me that name?

GRAEZEN

Yes. Spare Udo. Prevent the rebellion.

EXT. BURNING CANDLE - EXECUTION STAND - LATER THAT DAY

Boul snatches the bag from Udo's head. Udo squints at the sunlight. He looks at the entire city watching him, all dead-eye slaves and visionaries.

Radon stands on a podium, above and in front of Udo. Graezen stands next to him.

RADON

Slave Udo. You are charged with treason for plotting to rebel against Burning Candle. This is not a trial. It is a sentencing. Before I determine that sentence, do you admit to the crime?

UDO

I do.

RADON

I respect your honesty, and I'll show you mercy. You will serve the rest of your days working in Vision Flame. Is there anything you would like to say before you're stationed?

UDO

Yes. Do you admit to your crimes? Enslaving humans. Raping humans. Abusing humans. Killing humans.

**SFX: Crowd boos slave udo.**



CROWD

Burn him! Burn his eyes out. Burn him!

RADON

Boul hand my brother your sword.

**SFX: Boul unsheathes his long sword and hands it to Graezen.**

RADON (CONT'D)

My brother will rekindle the Burning Candle. He will kill the dead-eye slave that wants to put an end to us as a people. Ash to flame!

CROWD

Flame to ash!

**SFX: Crowd cheers Graezen as he walks to execute Udo.**

Graezen walks up to Udo carrying Boul's long sword over his shoulder.

UDO

Look at that. I made them accept you now. You can't play both sides anymore.

GRAEZEN

My brother knew about the rebellion. He has someone talking in slaves camp. I know it sounds like a stretch but--

UDO

I believe you. Saiya is going to need you now, more than ever.

Graezen brings the sword back. Udo shuts his eyes.

Then, he drops it on the ground.

**SFX: Crowd boos Graezen.**

CROWD

Burn him! Burn his eyes out.

Radon whispers in Boul's ear.

Boul walks up to Graezen and picks up his sword. Then his single-ring eyes flash, activating its ability.

EXT. VISION PLANE - SAME TIME

The single-ring red eyes attack the target's mind by placing the victim on Vision Plane. A place that replicates the user's current location. However, in Vision Plane, everything appears to be shaded in red.

What feels like minutes on Vision Plane is actually seconds in the real world.

Boul raises his sword and chops off Graezen's right hand. Graezen screams, but no sound comes out.

EXT. BURNING CANDLE - EXECUTION POST - SAME TIME

In the real world, the light in Boul's eyes dies out.

**SFX: Crowd boos Graezen.**

Graezen drops to the floor and passes out.

END OF SHOW