

A HERO'S HOME

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EXT. SONNENFELD - NIGHT

The people of the town gather around a large bonfire, humble houses erratically lit by the flames. At the center stand three figures -

MARIKA and CADELL stand together, Marika holding a baby swaddled in her arms. She is short and plain, wearing simple midwives clothes.

Cadell is tall and broad, standing protectively by his wife and young child. He has a large blade slung across his back, and smaller one at his side. They both look towards the third figure -

VOLUND, the village elder with a scruffy beard and wild eyes, waves a large walking stick above the flames. He waves it, smoke curling fiendishly, and speaks in a voice that comes from all around

VOLUND

The child's fate, a violent foe, will
come to bear when filled with woe. A
terrible choice and decisive blow,
will help him reap what he must sow.

Volund collapses, the crowd gasps, stepping back. Marika begins crying and pulls her child close, as Cadell grabs Volund by the front of his shirt.

CADELL

What is the meaning of this...this
curse you have placed on my child?

Volund smiles weakly, a glimmer of mischief in his eyes.

VOLUND

I only speak what the spirits tell me
(cough cough)
You're boy will be a great hero! He
will save us from certain doom!

A massive ROAR shadow swoops overhead. Cadell drops Volund, spinning back to the crowd.

CADELL

Anyone who can wield a blade follow
me! The rest, get to shelter and keep
the children safe!

Crowd begins running in panic, people gather their kids and run to the nearest homes. A gout of flame lights up the night, illuminating a massive DRAGON with scarlet scales and demonic golden eyes.

Cadell rushes to Marika as SCREAMS arise from the town. He pulls the small sword from his belt, it's ornate golden handle glinting in the firelight.

CADELL (cont'd)
Marika, my love, you must take our boy and keep him safe.

MARIKA
No! No I'm not going to just leave you to die for -

CADELL
Marika you must! You must keep him safe, if he truly is to be a hero then he must live to become one!

Cadell presses the sword into Marika's arms, tears streaming down his face. He smiles at the baby in her arms, hugs the two of them then rushes towards the dragon. He draws his large blade, calling out.

CADELL (cont'd)
Defenders, to me! We must keep our families safe and drive this thing back!

FOCUS ON MARIKA

Marika stands stunned, eyes wide, watching as he runs towards the dragon. Another blast of fire reflects in her eyes, shaking her out of her stupor. She holds her baby and the sword tight before rushing to shelter.

MARIKA
I'm so sorry my light, my dear Faust.

FADE IN: 17
YEARS LATER

INT. FAUST'S HOME - MORNING

The house is small and dark, a front door leads into a bare sitting room, with another door on the far wall. Empty jars of a red liquid lay about, wall sconces lay empty and covered in wax.

Faust, now 17, sleeps on a small couch that he is clearly too big for. He is tall and lanky with a boyish face, and is wearing a simple cotton shirt and pants.

Light comes through a dirty window, waking Faust.

He stretches, walks over to the counter and picks up a near empty jar and opens the cabinet. It is almost entirely full of similar jars, the lowest shelf having two cups and a single plate.

Faust grabs a cup and pours the remainder of the liquid in, looking into the jar as it stops pouring.

FAUST
Shit...shit that was supposed to last
a week.

He turns back to the empty house. Dust floats in the air.

FAUST (cont'd)
(yelling)
MA?

BEAT as he waits for a response, gets nothing.

FAUST (cont'd)
I'm heading out for more of your
medicine, I'll be back as soon as I
can!

EXT. SONNENFELD - DAY

Faust walks quickly through town, not paying much attention to the world around him, struggling to fit a full jar of medicine in a small satchel. He almost runs into -

MATTHIAS, REIMUND, and ANIKA, all also 17, laughing loudly and talking about their plans for the day. They are carrying fishing rods and a small basket.

Faust manages to stop just in front of the three, stumbling and almost dropping the jar.

MATTHIAS
Hey man, watch it.

FAUST
Sorry. Must've been lost in my own
head.

A look of recognition spreads across the three.

REIMUND
(mocking)
Too busy worrying about "the
prophecy?"

Anika snickers, covering her mouth.

FAUST
I'm just picking up some medicine.

MATTHIAS
Come on Reimund, don't be rude.

FAUST
(Surprised)
Thank y-

Matthias' face curls to a conceited smile.

MATTHIAS
Everyone knows that's just a load of
bullshit his mommy told him to make
him feel better.

Reimund and Anika laugh.

FAUST
Keep my ma out of your mouth.

REIMUND
Aww he's angry! What're you gonna do?
Smite me with your "magical powers"?

Faust glares at him, but makes no move.

REIMUND (cont'd)
That's what I thought. Come on guys,
the fish are waiting.

The three push past Faust, Reimund knocking into him slightly. He fumbles and nearly drops the jar again. The three snicker and whisper as they walk away.

Faust takes a deep breath, before heading home.

INT./EXT. FAUST'S HOME - SAME DAY

A SMALL HOME STANDS NEAR THE EDGE OF TOWN, BUILT OF SIMPLE WOOD AND STONE.

Faust enters the small home and walks towards the back. A small fireplace can be seen off the the side, clearly not used recently. He knocks lightly before opening the door.

FAUST
Ma? You awake? I've got your medicine
if you're up for it.

The interior of the room is dark, the curtains are drawn, and a large bed dominates the space.

There is a small table and stool off to the side of the bed, with a cup and plate sitting on it. The room is pristine, no dust covers the ground, and a broom stands in the corner.

MARIKA lays in bed, eyes barely open. Her skin is pale and she breathes heavily before talking.

MARIKA

Faust? Is that you dear?

Faust exhales

FAUST

Yeah ma, it's me.

He steps up to his mother's side and pulls a small stool over before pouring the medicine into it.

FAUST (cont'd)

The apothecary said this should be enough for at least a week, so please drink it all if you can.

Marika sits up and reaches a gaunt hand up to Faust's cheek.

MARIKA

Oh Faust, always so dedicated...you should be out there, experiencing the world!

Faust hands her the medicine. She drinks slowly, being careful not to spill any.

FAUST

But then you'd be all alone ma. And besides, the rest of the world doesn't seem to like me all that much.

MARIKA

Nonsense! Everyone loves you! Your going to be a great hero one day!

She hands the cup back to Faust, before laying back down. Faust turns to place it back on the small table.

FAUST

Y'see that's just the problem, no one wants to talk to "the prophecy kid".

Faust turns back, Marika is already back asleep, a light smile across her face.

Faust sighs and gets up, closing the door quietly as he leaves.

EXT. SONNENFELD CEMETERY - MORNING

Faust stands alone over a patch of freshly turned dirt, head down and hands clasped in front of him. The sky is gray and overcast, and a thick fog lays over the field.

The gravestone shows his mothers name, and one right beside it shows his fathers name.

FAUST
 (Whispered through
 tears)
 I'm so sorry ma, the medicine was
 supposed to...you were supposed to...

Faust begins crying heavily, shoulders shaking.

VOLUND
 May you rest together, among the
 spirits. Your work here is done.

Volund next to Faust, seemingly out of nowhere.

Faust recoils in shock.

FAUST
 Spirits abound, Volund, you could
 have given me some warning you were
 here!

VOLUND
 When one is absorbed in their grief,
 it can be nigh impossible to see what
 is right in front of them, let alone
 the path ahead.

Faust pulls himself together for a moment, wiping his eyes and nose.

FAUST
 I...I take it you were not here just
 to offer comfort?

VOLUND
 Hehe, you always were a sharp one.
 I'm sure you already know what I have
 to say

FAUST

And what is the point of my so called "grand destiny"? To protect a town that has never accepted me? To leave the only remnants of my family I have, all for people who look at me like something other?

Faust turns. Volund shoves his staff in front of Faust, blocking his path.

VOLUND

And what if there was a way to bring them back?

Faust doesn't turn back, but stops walking.

FAUST

What?

Faust spins back, stepping directly in front of the small man, desperation spreading across his tear-lined face. He grabs Volund by the shirt.

FAUST (cont'd)

This isn't one of your stories?

VOLUND

No, Faust, this is no mere story. Your destiny is to become a great hero, yes?

Faust drops the man.

FAUST

So you have told me, and the rest of the town, since I was born.

VOLUND

Those who become great heroes are said to have their greatest wishes granted by the spirits.

FAUST

Even...even bringing them back?

Beat.

FAUST (cont'd)

Fine, I will do it. I'll claim my destiny, but not for your, or anyone else here.

He turns back to his parents headstones.

FAUST (cont'd)
I will do it for them, for the
promise of a happy, quiet life
together.

He turns back to town and begins walking home.

INT. FAUST'S HOME - DAY

Faust walks quickly through the house, collecting equipment and supplies as he does. He pulls on a set of leather armor, a small pack with a bedroll on the top, and a pair of heavy traveling boots.

Finally, he reaches into a closet in his mother's room and pulls down a cloth-wrapped object. He gingerly unwraps it, revealing his father's sword. Faust attaches the sheathe to his belt carefully.

Before he leaves he presses his hand to the door.

FAUST
I will be back, and we will live the
life we were meant to. No dragon, no
prophecy.

EXT. SONNENFELD MAIN - CONTINUOUS

He pushes open the door and steps out, walking down the road out of town, into the dense fog.

EXT. ROADSIDE - SUNSET

Faust sits off the side of the main road, bedroll laid out behind him. He sits in front of a small pile of sticks, grasses, and leaves, struggling to get a fire to light with a flint and steel.

LEVI
Ho, traveler! You look like you could
use some help!

CUT TO:

CORD and LEVI on horseback, approaching. They both wear dark leathers, a dark cloak obscures their faces. One is taller than the other.

FAUST
If that help includes getting this
fire to light, I'm all ears.

The two pull off the road and up to Faust's camp.

Cord pulls a stake off the side of his pack and ties the horses up. Levi steps up and lights the fire easily.

FAUST (cont'd)
Impressively done, uh, I don't think
I caught your name?

LEVI
You can call me Levi, and the quiet
one over there is Cord.

Cord nods to Faust as he approaches the fire.

FAUST
Well thank you Levi, I seem to have
bad luck with my flint.

CORD
Or you're just lousy at it.

FAUST
In any case, I truly appreciate the
help. How can I repay the favor?

Levi and Cord laugh a short, light laugh.

LEVI
Don't worry about that sorta thing.
Just be sure to pay it forward when
you can.

Faust nods and smiles, relaxing by the fire for a while as the others set up their bedrolls.

As the fire burns down Faust places his sword under the cloth before turning in.

EXT. ROADSIDE - MORNING

Faust wakes up, stretching and rubbing the sleep from his eyes before reaching for a water-skin from his pouch. He reaches a few times before turning and seeing it missing, along with his entire pack.

In a panic he reaches under himself, pulling the sword out and exhaling slightly.

FAUST
Shit. Shit shit shit.

Faust rushes over to the road, looking up and down for any sign of Levi, Cord, or his stuff.

FAUST (cont'd)
How could I be so stupid? "Just make sure to pay it forward"? What kind of monumental idiot falls for that?!

Faust stomps back towards the makeshift camp. He kicks the burnt-out campfire as he passes it.

He packs up his bedroll and reattaches the sword to his side, then walks back towards the road and sits on a rock.

FAUST (cont'd)
Maybe...maybe they'll come back. They probably just took the horses to get a drink.

Time passes, Faust sits and waits, with no sign of anyone coming down the road. Eventually the sun begins to set and he gets up.

FAUST (cont'd)
Fine, fine! If they won't come back to me, I'll go after them.

He begins walking up the road, into the nearby forest.

EXT. FOREST - SUNSET

FAUST
God, this fucking thing.

Faust sits in a small clearing, struggling to light a fire once again.

A RUSTLING from the bushes startles him. He jumps to his feet and pulls out his sword, pointing it towards the sound.

FAUST (cont'd)
Who's there?! Show yourself-

ARDOR, covered by a deep green cloak, appears out of the bushes, cutting Faust off. They are a bit shorter than Faust, and move confidently through the forest.

ARDOR
My apologies, I did not mean to scare you.

FAUST
Stay where you are! And put your
hands up!

Ardor stops and raises their hands, unconcerned

ARDOR
I mean you no harm, I was simply
looking for a place to make camp.

FAUST
And you just so happened on a lone
traveler? How naive do you think I
am.

ARDOR
If you are so wise then you must know
this is the closest clearing to the
river?

FAUST
I-

ARDOR
You seem to travel light, far lighter
than any ranger I've known.

Ardor begins walking around the edge of the clearing, hands
still above their head.

FAUST
Stay where you are!

ARDOR
Or perhaps your supplies have been...
misplaced?

FAUST
How did you...

ARDOR
You seem like a good kid, may I offer
some advice?

Ardor draws their bow and fires an arrow between Faust's
legs. Their hood falls, revealing red hair flecked with gray
and bright, golden eyes. They are in their mid-50s, a harsh
look on their face that contrasts the tone they have spoken
in.

ARDOR (cont'd)
You are far, far too trusting and far
too inexperienced.
(MORE)

ARDOR (cont'd)
If I had meant you harm you would not
even have known I was here.

FAUST
What the hell was that?

ARDOR
A simple warning. And an offer.

Ardor steps into the clearing, up to the pile of sticks, and
lights it easily.

FAUST
An offer?

ARDOR
But first, a meal. I find any good
offer must be made on a full stomach.

Faust lowers their blade but doesn't move forward.

FAUST
And this meal is just going to appear
from thin air?

Ardor laughs and steps back to the bushes, picking up a
traveling bag.

ARDOR
You really need to listen more.

They pull out two fish wrapped in leaves, spearing the fish
on sticks by the fire.

ARDOR (cont'd)
Come, sit. I promise I don't bite -?

Ardor reaches out a hand. Faust approaches carefully,
shaking their hand.

FAUST
Faust. My name is Faust.

ARDOR
It is a pleasure to meet you Faust.
You can call me Ardor.

Faust sits on the opposite side of the fire, one hand on his
sword.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

The clearing is now solely illuminated by the low-burning fire. Faust sits, picking fish out of his teeth.

Ardor sits opposite, cleaning a small hunting knife.

ARDOR
So then, my offer.

Faust looks up, hand moving to his sword.

ARDOR (cont'd)
Your blade is unnecessary, Faust. As I said, if I wanted to hurt you, I could do at any time.

FAUST
Then what do you want? Clearly I have no money.

ARDOR
Exactly, you seem to be in need of help. And lucky for you I am in the market to help.

FAUST
And why exactly would you do that?

ARDOR
Would you believe I just want to help?

Beat as Faust stares them down

ARDOR (cont'd)
Fine, traveling in a pair is safer than alone. Especially in the forest, most predators are unlikely to attack a group.

FAUST
I...appreciate the offer, and the meal, but this journey is my own.

Ardor looks up intently.

ARDOR
And what is that journey, that you have to go alone?

Faust pauses, unsure.

FAUST

I have to...I am looking for some bandits, a pair specifically. They stole my pack a few days ago.

ARDOR

Ahhh I see. Well that is a noble quest indeed.

Ardor sheathes their knife and gets up, walking to the treeline.

ARDOR (cont'd)

Well, I wish you luck on your journey, and safe travels through the woods.

FAUST

Uhm, thank you, safe travels as well.

Ardor turns when they reach the treeline.

ARDOR

Oh, and when you use a flint, strike fast and hard. You don't need to scrape along the whole length.

Ardor steps out of the clearing and into the woods. Faust looks shocked, then pulls out his flint and strikes it successfully. He laughs a bit.

FADE OUT

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Faust stands on the forest path, sword drawn and in front of him.

FAUST

Stay back!

A GROWL from down the path. A brown bear slowly stalks closer. Faust slowly backs up.

FAUST (cont'd)

I don't want to have to hurt you!

Faust keeps backing up stumbling as he hits a tree. The bear keeps coming. It rears up on it's hind legs and ROARS.

Two arrows THUNK into the bear's throat. It collapses to the side, dead. Faust lets out a shaky breath.

FAUST (cont'd)
I...thank you. You saved my life.

Ardor drops down from a tree branch, bow in hand.

ARDOR
Can't have you dying before you
complete your grand quest, now can
we?

FAUST
I may have been a bit hasty in
turning down your offer. Any chance
it's still on the table?

Ardor puts their bow away.

ARDOR
So long as you learn to pay closer
attention to your surroundings.

Faust nods and puts a hand out.

FAUST
If you can give me some advice on
staying sharp, you have a deal.

Ardor shakes his hand.

ARDOR
A deal it is then. Come, we should
camp soon.

The two start off down the path, Faust tense and Ardor calm.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Ardor and Faust sit low in the bushes, staring ahead. Light RUSTLING causes Faust to jump, Ardor puts a hand out to stop him. A SNAP, Faust jumps again, Ardor dives forward and lifts a rabbit in a trap from the ground.

FAUST
I still don't understand how you knew
where to set the trap. Or where to
wait.

ARDOR
Well kid, I've been around far longer
than you have. Know the rises and
falls, the ebbs and flows of nature
better than most.

FAUST
Oh? And how "old and experienced"
could you possibly be? You don't seem
as ancient as some.

Ardor grins, their golden eyes shine in the light

ARDOR
My appearance may not be decrepit,
but trust I am older than any you
have met.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Ardor and Faust kneel around a small pile of stick. Faust strikes a few times on a flint and steel, getting some light sparks. Ardor takes it from him and demonstrates, getting a stronger spark. Faust nods, taking the steel back and strikes. The fire lights, Ardor pats Faust on the back.

FAUST
Holy shit it actually worked.

ARDOR
Did you seriously think you were
cursed to never start a fire?

FAUST
I...guess? I just didn't expect
anyone to teach me how.

ARDOR
Well consider yourself taught

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Ardor stands in a shooting position with their bow. Faust stands nearby, watching. Ardor looses an arrow which THUNKS into a tree with a small circle carved on it. Ardor hands the bow and an arrow to Faust.

Faust draws the bow, doing his best to mimic Ardor. He looses the string and it SNAPS into his forearm, the arrow falling a few feet short of the tree.

ARDOR
We'll uh, we'll work on that one.

FAUST
Ahhh, yeah, sure.

EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON

Ardor shows Faust how to set up a simple snare trap. He places it in the brush and waits like before. A SNAP and the two cheer, Faust lifts a rabbit from the brush.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Faust watches carefully as Ardor butchers and prepares the rabbit to eat, a fire burning brightly.

AN ARROW LANDS CLOSER TO THE TREE

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Ardor and Faust walk along the path. Faust walks with a bit more confidence than before.

ARDOR

An important part of travel is knowing what is and isn't safe to eat.

FAUST

But we've got rabbits and fish?

ARDOR

First of all, variety is the spice of life. You don't get to where I am only eating critters. Secondly, who says it's just for us?

FAUST

Hm?

Ardor stops and grabs a small stalk with purple-black berries.

ARDOR

For example, this may look like a delicious, sweet treat. But even a small amount is enough to knock most out, and any more can kill them.

FAUST

So it's a poison?

ARDOR

Depends on who and where you ask. I have known some people that use this fruit as a potent anti-pain salve, diluting the poisons effects.

FAUST
I still don't follow, I'm afraid.

ARDOR
Proper knowledge of the medicinal and
poisonous properties of your
surroundings is invaluable when
traveling. You never know how far the
next town may be where someone can
help.

Faust nods and looks the plant over.

AN ARROW THUNKS INTO THE BOTTOM OF A TREE

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Faust sits alone by a pile of sticks, holding a flint and
steel. He takes a deep breath and STRIKES, a bright spark
catching in the pile. The fire grows.

FAUST
Yes! Finally!

Ardor comes into the clearing, carrying two fish.

ARDOR
Well that was much faster than last
time. We'll make a survivalist of you
yet.

Ardor hands Faust a fish and a small knife, pulling their
knife from their side. The two sit and begin preparing the
fish for cooking.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Ardor and Faust walk side by side on the path.

ARDOR
Comfrey?

FAUST
Bruising!

ARDOR
Marigold?

FAUST
Healing cuts!

ARDOR
Nightshade?

FAUST
Deadly poison!

ARDOR
Wolfsbane?

FAUST
Mild poisoning?

ARDOR
Correct! Now can you see any of these
plants around us?

Faust begins looking around carefully, pointing as he notices them. Ardor smiles

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

An arrow THUNKS directly into the center of a circle carved in a tree.

Faust stands a ways away, holding the bow confidently, shock on his face.

FAUST
Is that? Is that in?

ARDOR
I do believe it is! Seems some of my
teaching has worn off.

Faust beams, the first time we've seen him truly smile.

FAUST
I'd say so! I don't know where I'd be
if you hadn't offered your help...or
saved me from that bear.

Ardor pats him on the back, taking their bow and slinging it across their back.

ARDOR
You're a smart kid, you'd have
figured it out.

FAUST
Sure, would that be before or after
the bear killed me?

The two laugh a real, hearty laugh.

EXT. FOREST EDGE - NIGHT

Faust and Ardor sit next to each other at a fire, the treeline clears just a bit ahead of them.

ARDOR

So Faust, what will you do once you find the bandits? Head back to your nice quaint life?

FAUST

No, I wish it were that easy.

Faust pauses, then turns to his companion.

FAUST (cont'd)

I...haven't been entirely honest with you, Ardor.

ARDOR

Oh?

FAUST

I have been chasing thieves, but that wasn't the real reason I set out. I'm supposed to be on a grand quest, to set out and slay a dragon and achieve my destiny.

ARDOR

I...see.

Faust pulls out his sword and looks at his reflection in the blade.

FAUST

And at the end, maybe I'll have my wish granted. I can bring my family back.

ARDOR

Bring them back?

Faust nods.

FAUST

My family...my parents are dead. My father died a few days after I was born, supposedly defending our home from the dragon I have to slay. This sword used to be his, it's the only piece of him I have. That and the fact my mother says- said I look like him.

ARDOR
And she is gone as well.

Faust takes a shaky breath.

FAUST
She...passed recently. It was her
being gone that made me decide it was
time to go, to fulfill my destiny.

Ardor places a hand on on Faust's shoulder. He looks up.

ARDOR
Fate and destiny are heavy burdens,
you carry yours better than many I've
seen.

FAUST
I wish I didn't have to carry it at
all.

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - AFTERNOON

Faust and Ardor sit in a small, rocky ditch. The terrain is much more hilly and uneven, the road flanked by hills and valleys. Ardor pulls some dried rations out and hands half to Faust.

ARDOR
The next town is still over a week
out, we may have to stretch our
meals.

Faust nods.

FAUST
I've never been this far from-

A CLOP of horses cuts him off. Ardor immediately draws their bow.

ARDOR
Stay low and stay quiet.

The two hide in the rocks, watching the road. Cord and Levi, on horseback, walk down the road. Levi has a bow across his back, Cord wears Faust's stolen pack.

Faust nudges Ardor to get their attention.

FAUST
(whispering)
That's them!

ARDOR
(whispering)
What?

FAUST
(whispering)
The ones who robbed me. The tall
one's still got my pack!

A wicked glint in Ardor's eyes.

ARDOR
(whispering)
Then let's have some fun. Follow my
lead.

Ardor pulls their bow back and looses an arrow. It hits
Levi's horse square in the neck.

The horse falls, and Levi with it. Cord's horse panics,
throwing him to the ground and rushing off.

ARDOR (cont'd)
Now! Go!

Faust and Ardor rush out of the ditch, right up to the
bandits. Faust stands above Cord, blade at his throat. Ardor
places a boot on Levi's neck.

CORD
What in the-

FAUST
You have something of mine.

LEVI
Your that kid from back before the
forest.

FAUST
I don't want to hurt you, but my
friend here may not be so kind.

Ardor presses harder onto Levi's neck. He coughs.

FAUST (cont'd)
So give me the pack, and you can keep
your life.

ARDOR
And the bow. Can't have you shooting
us in back as soon as we leave.

Cord's eyes are full of rage. Levi coughs again.

CORD
Fine, take the damn things. Not like
you'll live much longer with 'em.

Cord carefully pulls himself out of the pack, pushing it to the side. He gets up, careful to avoid Faust's sword.

Ardor let's up on Levi, who stands slowly.. They keep their bow ready, arrow in one hand.

ARDOR
No sudden moves, yeah?

Levi glares, but drops the bow.

The bandits turn and begin walking down the road. Once they are a few paces away, Ardor draws back and fire two arrows quickly.

Levi and Cord fall to the ground, arrows in their necks.

FAUST
What in the hells was that!? They
gave us what we asked for!

Ardor leans down and picks up the bow.

ARDOR
Never leave a loose end, especially
one you've humiliated. Something they
obviously didn't think about.

They hand the bow to Faust, who is still processing what happened.

FAUST
What's this for?

ARDOR
About time you had a bow of your own.

Faust takes it, his shock fading. He gives Ardor a tight hug, now they are shocked. Faust release them, smiling.

FAUST
Thank you! For everything!

Ardor laughs.

ARDOR
Why are you talking like this is the
end?

FAUST

I thought-I mean, we're out of the forest?

ARDOR

Yes, but I can't very well have you getting yourself killed before this grand destiny.

They turn to the horses. Faust's smile widens.

ARDOR (cont'd)

Come, there's some good meat on these things and it'd be a shame to waste a fresh meal.

MONTAGE OF THE TWO TRAVELING

- Ardor gives Faust a replacement pack and supplies
- Faust and Ardor fish by a river.
- They travel over rocky hills, helping each other up at times
- Campfire, Faust skins a rabbit, Ardor tells stories
- They lie still in the bushes, a shape stalking past in the grass
- Faust trips, Ardor laughs then helps him up.
- Camp, Ardor and Faust race to see who can light a fire faster

EXT. HOENFELST - SUNSET

A small town sits in the shadow of a mountain. Few people walk the streets, and many of the homes are in disrepair. A sense of dread lays over the town.

Faust and Ardor walk slowly through the town. Faust is noticeably more muscular and confident, looking more like his father.

FAUST

What...happened here?

ARDOR

I'll give you one guess.

Ardor nods to a large wooden sign. The words "DRAGON. TURN BACK." are painted in bright red across it.

FAUST
This whole town, all by one beast?

Faust shudders as he takes in the destruction.

ARDOR
It certainly seems that way. Come, we should prepare camp. I doubt we will find much hospitality here.

EXT. HOENFELST - NIGHT

Ardor and Faust sit quietly around a fire.

FAUST
Out with it already.

ARDOR
What?

FAUST
Something is on your mind, this is the quietest I've ever seen you.

ARDOR
I guess you could say I'm mourning, in a sense.

FAUST
Mourning?

ARDOR
The end of a journey, and potentially the loss of a friend.

FAUST
Mmm, I see.

ARDOR
And you? You should be excited, your destiny is so close! Why so sullen?

Faust leans back and looks towards the mountain.

FAUST
I'm scared, terrified really.

ARDOR
Of the dragon?

FAUST

Of what happens after the dragon. Up there in that mountain, everything my life has been leading to happens.

ARDOR

That isn't cause for celebration?

FAUST

No matter what happens in there, everything is going to change. And I'm terrified of that.

ARDOR

You could always turn around, head back, try to live your own quiet life.

FAUST

And go where? I can't return home as anything but a hero.

A SNAP behind Faust causes the two to turn.

FAUST (cont'd)

Hello? Who's there?

ERIKA steps out into the light. She is around 6 years old, wearing a simple dress and shoes. She has dirty blonde hair pulled up in a ponytail and is holding her hands behind her back.

FAUST (cont'd)

Hey, hey its ok, we don't bite. What's your name, kid?

ERIKA

...Erika.

FAUST

Where are your parents Erika?

ERIKA

My mama is back at home...my daddy's not here anymore.

Faust steps a bit closer, hands up.

FAUST

Well, I'm sure you're she's worried, let's get you back home.

Faust reaches a hand out to Erika. She takes it, looking up at him with awe. Faust walks with her back into town.

EXT. HOENFELST - NIGHT

Faust and Erika walk through town.

FAUST
Which one's your house?

Erika points to one of the few undamaged buildings.

Faust walks her up to the front door, reaching to knock.
Erika pulls on his shirt, stopping him.

ERIKA
Are you gonna help my daddy?

Faust kneels down.

FAUST
I thought you said your daddy wasn't
here?

ERIKA
He's not! Mama said he's up there!

She points over towards the mountain.

ERIKA (cont'd)
Mama said you were a big hero! And
heroes save people!

Erika is yelling now, tears welling in her eyes.

FAUST
If I can, I'll try to help him.

ERIKA
You promise?

The door to the house opens. GERLINDE stands in the door, a look of panic on her face. Her blonde hair is short, pushed back with a bandana. Her simple clothes are covered in flour.

GERLINDE
Erika! Where have you been! I've been
worried sick!

Erika doesn't look up from Faust.

ERIKA
Promise!

Faust sighs

FAUST

I promise.

Erika nods, satisfied, and rushes inside. Faust stands up.

GERLINDE

I'm sorry about her, she's been a mess since her father...since he left. Thank you...?

FAUST

Faust, and you?

GERLINDE

Gerlinde

FAUST

Do you mind me asking, what happened to Erika's father? She said he's up in the mountain?

Gerlinde turns back, checking for Erika, before mostly closing the door.

GERLINDE

He died trying to fight the thing that lives in the mountain.

FAUST

He went alone?

Gerlinde nods. Her voice fills with pain and anger.

GERLINDE

After the dragon attacked, he was one of the few left in any condition to fight back. I begged him to wait, to help rebuild, but he wouldn't listen.

FAUST

I'm so sorry.

GERLINDE

And he didn't even kill it. My husband died a fool and a failure... how am I supposed to tell that to Erika.

FAUST

She said you called me a hero, and I promised her I'd be one.

GERLINDE

Oh that was just-We don't get many
traveler's here, especially ones as
armed as you.

Faust's eyes harden, his voice more confident than before.

FAUST

I'm not one yet, but I keep my
promises.

Faust turns back to the road.

EXT. HOENFELST - NIGHT

Faust walks back towards the fire, his back straight eyes
forward. Ardor looks up curious.

ARDOR

You seem...different?

Faust sits

FAUST

I think I finally feel ready. We
leave at dawn.

EXT. BURNT RUINS - AFTERNOON

Faust and Ardor stop among a collection of burnt ruins as
the sun begins to set.

The mountain looms large over them, the mouth of the cave
just ahead.

They set up a small camp, an air of finality as they do.

ARDOR

So, this is it then.

FAUST

I guess so...tomorrow, we face a
dragon.

ARDOR

We?

Faust turns, surprised.

FAUST

Are you not joining me?

ARDOR

I can't just stand and watch you
throw you life away.

FAUST

You...you don't think I can do it?

Ardor lets out a heavy sigh.

ARDOR

I think you are young, you have your
whole life ahead of you. Why waste it
here?

FAUST

Waste? Waste?! I'm doing this for my
family, for a chance at a happy life
with them! And you want to call that
a waste!

ARDOR

You can start your own family, far
from here! Where no one has heard
your name or your prophecy! You could
have the life you want without
risking it all!

FAUST

And doom this land to the dragon? You
saw what it had done back there, how
can I turn away from that
destruction!

Ardor stands, grabbing their pack.

ARDOR

If you won't listen to reason, fine.
But I don't have to stay and watch
you kill yourself for a chance at
glory.

They stalk off into the night. Faust stands and calls after
them.

FAUST

Fine! And when I'm a legendary hero,
don't come running back, hoping for
an apology!

Ardor keeps walking.

FAUST (cont'd)

I hope a bear eats you!

He sits back down, tear of rage bubbling to the surface.

FAUST (cont'd)
Of course they'd leave...everyone
does.

EXT. CAVE MOUTH - MORNING

Faust steels himself, sword drawn and armor ready. He looks back one last time, then heads inside.

INT. CAVE

Faust walks through the dark, narrow pass. Light shines from in front of him as the path opens into a massive cavern. Gold and jewels lay strewn about the floor. Faust stands at the entrance.

FAUST
Face me, foul beast, so I may avenge
my father and all you have slain!

A SHIFT comes from the pile. Faust's voice shakes a bit.

FAUST (cont'd)
Sh-Show yourself!

Ardor steps out from within the hoard.

FAUST (cont'd)
Ardor? But you left?

Ardor takes a deep breath and steps forward.

ARDOR
I tried to warn you, to get you to
turn back.

FAUST
What are you -?

Ardor's shadow, projected on the wall behind Faust, shifts and warps.

They grow impossibly large, massive wings ERUPTING from their back.

Their neck stretches, demonic reptilian jaws sprouting and ROARING out.

The ground SHAKES as their feet become clawed, red scales growing across them.

Ardor now towers over Faust, whose face twists with rage and betrayal.

FAUST (cont'd)
You...I trusted you!

He rushes forward and strikes, blade bouncing harmlessly off the scales.

FAUST (cont'd)
I told you everything!

Faust slashes wildly at Ardor's legs, rage fueling him.

Ardor defends and dodges, careful to avoid hurting Faust.

ARDOR
Faust, wait-

FAUST
For you lie to me again?

Faust's blade sinks into Ardor's ankle, blood sprays across his face.

Ardor ROARS in pain raising their claw. They SLAM it down on Faust, trapping him. His sword CLATTERS across the ground.

Ardor leans their head close to Faust.

ARDOR
Fine, you want a fight? To "achieve your desssstiny"?

They press their hand into Faust, pushing him into the ground. He coughs and his eyes go wide, a CRACK comes from his chest.

ARDOR (cont'd)
I could have killed you hundredssss,
no thoussandsss of timessss on our
journey! Or jussst left you to die by
your own inexperiencce!

FAUST
(wheezing in pain)
So why didn't you?

Faust coughs again. Ardor pulls their head back and sneers, lips curling and teeth glimmering.

ARDOR

You think I want thissss life? Every few decadessss waiting for ssssome wannabe hero fueled by a propheccccc to come fight me?

As Ardor talks Faust slowly reaches for his sword, wincing against the pain as he stretches.

ARDOR (cont'd)

I have lived for hundredsssss of yearsssss, faced more foesss than you can comprehend. All becausssse your people think I'm a blight on the land.

Faust's fingers barely curl around the hilt of his sword, pulling it close. As Ardor is distracted he drives the point directly into the hand trapping him, blood gushing over him as it lands.

Ardor ROARS in pain, pulling the hand back and turning to Faust. Flame curls around the edge of their jaw.

Faust shakily gets up, his sword held in front of him. He takes a labored breath and stares Ardor down.

FAUST

You...ruined my life...betrayed my trust...

Ardor let's out a vicious laugh.

ARDOR

I ruined your life? The people of your town exxxxiled you all on their own.

Faust takes a weak step forward, wincing but holding his sword tight.

FAUST

If not for you...my father would still be alive...I could have lived a normal life! And now I finally have a chance to take it all back.

ARDOR

Very well, Faust. But know I never wanted it to come to this.

Faust attempts to steady himself, but is too slow. Ardor's tail CRASHES into him, sending him flying back towards the cave entrance.

Faust begins to get up, pushing of his sword to stand.

Ardor SLAMS their hands into the ground, shaking the entire caves. Rocks dislodge from the ceiling above Faust, blocking the way back in.

SCREEN GOES BLACK

EXT. CAVE MOUTH - AFTERNOON

Faust limps out of the caves, covered in blood and barely standing.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

He staggers down the dirt path, past the burnt ruins he stayed at the night before.

He turns back to look at the mountain. The cave is blocked by stone and rubble. A few tears form in his eyes, but he chokes them back and keeps walking.

EXT. HOENFELST - NIGHT

Faust collapses in the middle of the road just outside Gerlinde's home. Erika rushes out of the house towards him.

GERLINDE (O.C.)
ERIKA! Erika get back here!

ERIKA
Mama he came back! He came back just like you said!

Gerlinde steps into the doorframe, hands on her hips.

GERLINDE
Erika what are you-

Her breath catches at the sight of Faust's body.

GERLINDE (cont'd)
By the spirits! He needs- We should-
Let's bring him inside.

Gerlinde rushes over and removes Faust's pack before lifting him. His breath is ragged.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. GERLINDE'S HOME - MORNING

Faust lays in a small bed in the home, the curtains are drawn but some light filters through. He is covered in bandages, the cloth and sheets soaked red with blood. His shirt hangs off a side table.

His eyes blink open slowly and he sits up in a panic, wincing and coughing in pain. He takes in his surroundings.

Faust slowly moves to get up, cringing the whole way. Gerlinde steps into the doorway and rushes over as she sees him getting up.

GERLINDE

Whoa, Whoa, what are you doing. You aren't in any state to move.

Faust stands shakily before turning to her.

FAUST

I...how long have I been here.

GERLINDE

Three days, nearly four.

FAUST

...three days. I've wasted three days here.

Beat

FAUST (cont'd)

Thank you, you've saved my life. I'm sorry for any burden I caused.

He reaches for his shirt, wincing as he puts it over the bandages.

GERLINDE

Did you not here my when I said you aren't ready to move?

FAUST

I've already stayed too long...I have to go home.

He stumbles over to his pack, leaning on the wall for support.

GERLINDE

No, you have to rest. Your wounds are barely closed!

She reaches over to Faust, but he shoves his arm out and stops her.

FAUST
I...am fine. I don't need to be coddled.

GERLINDE
Fine, get yourself killed then.

Erika steps into the room carrying a full cup of water. Faust doesn't notice her.

FAUST
I don't need your pity either! You or anyone in this disaster of a town!

Erika begins crying, rushing out of the room and down the hall.

Faust stops, realizing what just happened. Before he can do anything Gerlinde shuts the door.

GERLINDE
I don't care what happened in that mountain, what you think about me or this town.

She locks eyes with Faust, staring daggers at him.

GERLINDE (cont'd)
What I do care about is my daughter and her happiness.

FAUST
I'm sor-

GERLINDE
It's too late for that now, "hero."
Gather your things, you said yourself it's time to leave.

EXT. GERLINDE'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Faust takes a deep breath, steadying himself before continuing down the road. He walks slowly, still limping slightly and wincing every few feet.

MONTAGE OF FAUST TRAVELING HOME

- Faust sets up a snare trap in the tall grass

- Faust skins and butches a small rabbit
- Faust enters the forest, staying low and quiet
- Faust collects and mashes some leaves into a paste, then applies it to his wounds
- Faust sets up a small fire and lights it easily
- Faust cooks a fish on a small spear over the fire

END MONTAGE

EXT. SONNENFELD MAIN STREET - EVENING

Faust, still injured but no longer limping, walks through town.

The sky is overcast, and it looks like not a day has passed since he left.

CUT TO:

Three people huddled together, whispering. One looks up, then quickly back down, avoiding eye contact. Another whispers something. They laugh.

EXT. FAUST'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Faust approaches his home and pushes the door open.

INT. FAUST'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

The home lies in the same state as when he left, dirty jars and an even thicker layer of dust over everything. Faust drops his pack and collapses on the bench, falling asleep.

INT. FAUST'S HOME - MORNING

A window SHATTERS. Faust BOLTS awake. He looks down - a rock.

INT./EXT. FAUST'S HOME/SONNENFELD - CONTINUOUS

From behind Faust we can see three kids rushing off, snickering.

FAUST
What in the hells is wrong with you!
Fucking jerks.

He shuts the door.

EXT. APOTHECARY SHOP - DAY

Faust approaches the shop, eyes wide and constantly looking around him. He knocks on the door.

FAUST
Hello? Is anyone there?

No reply. He knocks again, louder this time.

FAUST (cont'd)
It's me, Faust. I have some herbs to
trade.

Again no response. He reaches to turn the handle, as he does there is a CLICK of a bolt sliding and the door only opens a crack.

FAUST (cont'd)
What the-? Fine then! I don't need
you!

He turns angrily, walking down the street and complaining to himself.

EXT. SONNENFELD MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Faust storms down the road, back towards his house. His head is down, not paying attention to the continuing whispers.

He arrives outside his home stopping in front of the door. "Freak" is carved into it.

Faust whirls around, searching, but the street is empty.

INT. FAUST'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Faust slams the door shut, the final pieces of glass in the window CLATTER to the ground.

He takes a breath before collapsing back onto the bench.

FAUST

My whole life I've been told I had to follow the prophecy! And once I did everything would be better!

He reaches for the rocks that smashed through his window, tossing it in his hand. He stands up and HEAVES it back out the window.

FAUST (cont'd)

But now it's over, and everything's worse. I'm back in the house and even more alone than before.

As he rants he walks over to the other rock and picks it up.

FAUST (cont'd)

I failed...I failed ma...

He turns back to the blade, his reflection staring him down.

FAUST (cont'd)

And I failed you.

Screaming can be heard outside, shaking Faust back to reality.

Faust's eyes go wide, he grabs his bow and a few arrows before rushing out.

EXT. SONNENFELD - CONTINUOUS

Faust rushes outside, flames and smoke can be seen from the direction of the cemetery. Townsfolk stand in shock, unsure what to do.

SONNEN VILLAGER 1

Maybe if we stay inside it'll pass?

SONNEN VILLAGER 3

Are you kidding? We need to leave!

SONNEN VILLAGER 2

And go where?

CUT TO:

CEMETERY

The arguing continues, drowning out as a shape looms over the graves. Ardor exhales a massive blast across the field.

CUT TO:

FAUST

despair across his face.

FAUST

Ma...no...

Faust grabs a horse from a nearby townsfolk, spurring it towards the forest.

FAUST (cont'd)

Fine then, you bastard. Let's have a real fight.

EXT. SONNENFELD CEMETERY - AFTERNOON

Ardor stands in the center of the burning graves, eyes alight.

CUT TO:

Faust dismounts the horse, sending it back the way he came. His face is set with anger and determination.

He draws an arrow.

Beat. Faust takes a deep breath.

He looses the arrow. It WHISTLES through the air.

CUT TO:

ARDOR

The arrow PIERCES Ardor's neck. They turn, searching for the cause. Rage curls into a devilish grin as they spot Faust.

ARDOR

Soooo the hero shows himself, I thought for sure you would run again.

FAUST

What do you want?! You won, I lost!
Is this all some kind of sick game to you?

Ardor steps closer. Faust draws another arrow.

ARDOR

No gamessss, jusssst following the
firsssst rule of survival.

They raise a massive claw, prepared to tie up their loose
end. Faust is a speck beneath them.

CUT TO:

FAUST

ducking under it, the blow CRUSHING graves and sending dirt
FLYING. Faust shoots again, the arrow lodges into Ardor's
arm.

ARDOR

Alwaysss take care of looossse
endsss.

FAUST

So what, I'm just something to deal
with now?

CUT TO:

ARDOR

Taking in a massive breath, their chest aglow, then exhales
fire all around.

CUT TO:

FAUST

rushing to the right, barely ducking between flames. He
frantically pulls out another arrow.

FAUST

Just leave me alone!

Ardor cranes their neck down putting their face in front of
Faust.

ARDOR

Howww naive musst you be, even after
everything?

Flames FLARE between their teeth.

ARDOR (cont'd)
 If you truly wisshh to be left
 alooone, prove it.

They open their mouth, alight with flame and pointed directly at Faust. Faust looses the arrow into their jaws. Ardor reels and SHRIEKS.

Faust rushes forward and draws his blade. He drives it down through the top of Ardor's skull.

CUT TO:

CEMETERY

Ardor writhes and shakes, trying to right themself. They crash to the ground, eyes clouded and flames extinguished.

CLOSE ON FAUST

Faust approaches, laying a hand on Ardor's jaw.

FAUST
 Why? After all this why?

Tears fall slowly from his face.

Beat.

He turns back towards town.

EXT. SONNENFELD - NIGHT

Faust walks into town, covered in blood but standing tall.

A crowd of townsfolk stands waits for him

SONNEN VILLAGER 1 (O.C.)
 He...slayed the dragon...

SONNEN VILLAGER 2 (O.C.)
 The prophecy...

SONNEN VILLAGER 3 (O.C.)
 A hero...he's a hero.

Volund hobbles to the front of the crowd.

VOLUND
 Behold, Faust! Slayer of dragons and
 defender of the village!

Cheers erupt from the townsfolk. Faust smiles a weak, strained smile.

INT. FAUST'S HOME - MORNING

Faust awakes to hammering on the side of his house. He stands and looks out the window.

CUT TO:

MATTHIAS

standing with a hammer, attempting to fix the windows. He puts on a forced smile when he notices Faust.

MATTHIAS

Oh! I'm so sorry sir, did I wake you?

He speaks almost reverently.

Faust rubs the sleep from his eyes

FAUST

...sir?

MATTHIAS

I just thought the hero of the village should get some real windows! I can come back later if you want or-

FAUST

No, no it's ok. Thank you.

MATTHIAS

Whatever you need!

A KNOCK comes at the door. Faust opens it, where Reimund and Anika stand.

FAUST

Can I...help you?

REIMUND

Gifts, for our hero! Today's freshest catch, I'll cook it however you want.

FAUST

No that's alright I-

Reimund and Anika push past him into the small home.

The door hangs open, the words on the front shaved off.

Reimund clears space on the counter, pulling a large fish out of the sack and onto the counter

Anika rushes around collecting dirty jars, grabbing the sack and filling it.

REIMUND
How do you like your fish?

FAUST
I- this is all very nice but I can take care of myself.

ANIKA
Don't even worry about it, our... savior deserves an easy life.

A THUNK as Reimund begins butchering the fish.

Jars CLANK and CLATTER as Anika cleans, rushing around the room.

HAMMERING comes in from Matthias outside.

Faust stands in the doorway, overwhelmed and confused.

FAUST
Just hold on a minute-

The chopping gets faster and faster.

The clanking gets louder and louder.

The hammering gets heavier and heavier.

Anika walks down the hall, towards Faust's mother's door. She reaches for the door handle.

FAUST (cont'd)
STOP!

Everything stops.

FAUST (cont'd)
This is all very nice. But please, I am fine.

A jar slips from Anika's bag and SHATTERS on the ground.

ANIKA
I'm so sorry, sir, I'll-

Faust puts his hand up.

FAUST
Just...everyone leave.

The two drop what they were doing and rush out.

REIMUND
As you wish.

ANIKA
As you wish.

Matthias gathers his supplies and hustles after them.

MATTHIAS
As you wish, sir.

INT. FAUST'S HOME - EVENING

The house is filled with all kinds of knick nacks. Faust attempts to clear some space.

A KNOCK at the door.

Faust sighs heavily, walking over and opening it.

FAUST
The gifts are all wonderful but,
please-

A cane hooks around Faust and pulls him out.

EXT. FAUST'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

FAUST
What the-

Volund unhooks the cane and starts hobbling up the street.

VOLUND
Come come, boy! Your destiny awaits!

Faust follows confused.

EXT. SONNENFELD TOWN CENTER - CONTINUOUS

A massive tower of wood stands in the middle of the town. The population of the town surrounds it, murmuring to each other.

Volund brings Faust to the center of the crowd, all eyes on him. Volund picks up a lit torch.

VOLUND
Behold, Faust! Savior of Sonnenfeld!

Volund's voice echoes across the crowd.

VOLUND (cont'd)
Great Hero of the plains!

He thrusts the torch forward, the bonfire FLARES to life.

VOLUND (cont'd)
SLAYER OF THE WICKED DRAGON!

Cheers erupt from the townsfolk.

VOLUND (cont'd)
For your great deed, we present to
you a trophy from your battle.

EXT. SONNENFELD TOWN CENTER - CONTINUOUS

A path clears in the crowd, four townsfolk drag something massive covered by a cloth to Faust.

Faust looks to Volund, who's eyes are alight. He nods and gestures to the cloth.

Faust places a hand on the cloth, pulling it back revealing-

FAUST
Thank yo-

-Ardor's massive head, lifeless and pale. Faust's face falls into shock and fear.

Awed gasps and a few shrieks from the crowd.

Volund reaches into Ardor's mouth.

FAUST (cont'd)
What are you doing?

He TEARS a massive tooth out of their jaw. Thick, dark, dead blood DRIPS slowly to the ground.

Volund eagerly holds the tooth out to Faust. Faust takes it, almost on autopilot.

VOLUND
A token for our hero!

He turns back to the crowd.

VOLUND (cont'd)
And now, to rid the world of the
demonic being!

Volund nods to the four who dragged the head. They get
behind it and begin pushing towards the flames.

Faust reaches for the head.

FAUST
No, wait-

His voice is too quite, the crowd too excited.

VOLUND
For too long, we have lived in the
shadow of this evil thing!

Ardor's head gets closer to the fire.

VOLUND (cont'd)
But now, we take our world back!

The edge of Ardor's snout begins to burn and CRACKLE.

FAUST
(desperate whisper)
Please, no, stop...

VOLUND
And finally get vengeance for those
who died 18 years ago!

Ardor's head becomes engulfed in flames.

The crowd erupts into raucous celebration. Cheering and
dancing and clapping.

CLOSE ON FAUST

Faust stands slack-jawed, staring into Ardor's eyes as they
burn.

Beat.

Ardor's skin blackens and burns, their skull slowly showing.

Ardor's eye finally lights.

FAUST
I'm...I'm sorry. You deserved better
than this.

Faust turns, grip tightening on the tooth. He walks away from the party, unnoticed.

INT. FAUST HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Faust pushes through the collection of gifts, knocking them over. Some SHATTER and SNAP. He doesn't notice.

He frantically collects his pack, puts his traveling clothes on. He picks up the bow and quiver, then reaches for his sword, sat on a shelf.

The blade reflects the flames outside. Blood is still caked on the hilt.

IN BLADE REFLECTION

Faust sees his reflection in the blade, his father's blade, lit by flames.

He turns quickly and pushes out the door. The sword lays on the shelf, untouched.

EXT. SONNENFELD MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

The sounds of partying can be heard offscreen. Faust walks out of town, back lit by the massive flame. He walks towards the forest.

LONG SHOT AS FAUST FADES INTO THE NIGHT.

EXT. HOENFELST EDGE OF TOWN - DAY

Faust walks slowly through the town. His hair is longer and messy, clothes and pack covered in dirt.

He stops in front of the "Dragon" sign. He let's out a small, sad laugh. He then continues on.

GERLINDE (O.S.)

Hey! Where do you think you're going!

Faust turns and sees Gerlinde hustling up to him.

GERLINDE

Can't you rea- Faust? What are you doing here?

FAUST

I...don't really know.

He turns and looks up towards the mountain.

FAUST (cont'd)
It just felt right.

He looks around the town, most of the building still in some state of damage.

FAUST (cont'd)
Why haven't you started rebuilding?

Gerlinde huffs.

GERLINDE
What, just for the dragon to destroy it again?

FAUST
Oh.

Beat. He looks at the sign again.

FAUST (cont'd)
Could you gather as many people as you can here? I have something you should all hear.

Gerlinde looks puzzled.

GERLINDE
I can try. What's this all about?

Faust takes a deep breath and smiles slightly.

FAUST
A new beginning.

EXT. HOENFELST MAIN STREET - AFTERNOON

A small group of townsfolk gather in front of Faust, who stands in front of the sign. Gerlinde and Erika stand at the front of the crowd.

Faust takes a deep breath and steps forward.

FAUST
Hello. My name is Faust, and most of you don't know me.

Confused whispers from the crowd.

FAUST (cont'd)
But I come bearing...good news. For
you and your future.

He steadies his voice.

FAUST (cont'd)
The dragon is gone, by my own hand.
You can rebuild, start living again.

A wave of shock across the town.

Beat.

Villagers begin approaching Faust. They shake his hand, clap
him on the back.

HOEN VILLAGER 1
Thank you, truly thank you!

HOEN VILLAGER 2
You've done a great thing, son.

The crowd begins dispersing, back to their homes.

Erika rushes up, hugging Faust's legs. Gerlinde follow
behind her, still a bit in shock.

GERLINDE
I-I don't know what to say.

Faust smiles.

FAUST
I was just keeping a promise.

A small laugh from Gerlinde.

GERLINDE
Come on Erika, we've got a lot of
work to do.

Erika let's go of Faust's legs. She looks up at him excited.

ERIKA
THANK YOU!!!

Gerlinde turns, Erika follows after her.

FAUST
I'd um, I'd like to stay. To help fix
everything.

Gerlinde turns back.

FAUST (cont'd)
If you'll have me, of course.

Gerlinde smiles.

GERLINDE
As long as you promise to pull your
weight.

EXT. TOP OF GERLINDE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Faust sits on the roof of Gerlinde's home, a pile of tile and small pegs next to him. A hole can be seen in the roof.

He grabs a tile and two pegs, aligning it then hammering it in place, over the hole.

Gerlinde comes into view through the hole, in the house.

GERLINDE
Faust you've been up there all day,
come inside and eat something!

FAUST
Let me just finish this row, I'll be
right in.

Gerlinde sighs and heads back off screen.

INT. GERLINDE'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Gerlinde and Erika sit around a dinner table. The room is humble and warm, steam rising from three set plates.

Faust steps in, wiping some dirt off his hands, then takes a seat.

The three start eating. Gerlinde pauses, then looks to Faust.

GERLINDE
So what will you do once the roof is
fixed? Not much else we need
repaired.

Faust thinks for a moment.

FAUST
I think I'd like to help out with the
rest of the town, lighten the load a
bit.

FAUST LAYS A STONE IN A LINE

EXT. HOENFELST HOME - DAY

Faust carries a large plank of wood over to a humble home. A collection of townsfolk work on rebuilding the frame.

FAUST
I was uh, told to bring this here?

BERTHOLD, a stocky man, steps out from the frame.

BERTHOLD
You're that hero, Faust, the one who killed the dragon. What're you doing hauling wood?

FAUST
Oh I'm no hero, just a man hoping to right some wrongs.

Berthold looks at him confused, then shakes his head and points to the back of the house.

BERTHOLD
Who am I to deny some extra hands. Bring it back there, should be a hammer you can borrow.

Faust nods and goes in the direction Berhold pointed.

FAUST HAMMERS A FLOORBOARD INTO PLACE

EXT. HOENFELST EDGE OF TOWN - DAY

Faust and three other villagers pull a palette of tiles into town. They stop in front of a mostly destroyed house, a pile of wood also outside it.

Berthold calls from inside.

BERTHOLD
Good work lads, take a break.

The groups break, clapping each other on the back and heading for shade.

FAUST ATTACHES THE LAST PIECE OF A HOUSE FRAME

EXT. HOENFELST TOWN CENTER - EVENING

A group of four villagers, including Berthold, sit around a fire. They share drinks, laughing and joking.

CUT TO:

FAUST

Carrying a large deer carcass, heading towards Gerlinde's home.

Berthold notices Faust.

BERTHOLD

Ho, Faust! Come, have a drink!

Faust pauses, then steps over and joins the group.

Berthold hands him a drink.

FAUST

Thank you. How much do I owe you?

Berthold and the villagers laugh.

BERTHOLD

Owe me? It's the least I can do after all your help these past weeks!

Faust smiles and takes a drink.

Beat.

HOEN VILLAGER 1

That's an impressive catch, where'd you learn to hunt like that?

FAUST

From a...a dear friend.

BERTHOLD

Y'know we could use a real hunter, haven't had one since the dragon attack.

THE GROUP HELP FAUST LIFT WALLS INTO PLACE

EXT. HOENFELST MAIN STREET - DAY

Faust and Erika walk towards Gerlinde's home. They each carry a small sack and an armful of vegetables.

The town is is lively, active, a far cry from the first time we were here. People wave and smile to the two as they pass.

Erika stops a few feet from her home.

Faust walks a for a second, then notices her missing and turns.

FAUST

Erika?

Erika looks down at her feet.

Faust walks back to her.

FAUST (cont'd)

You alright?

ERIKA

Mhm...

Faust kneels down in front of her.

FAUST

You don't have to lie, I don't bite.

ERIKA

What are you going to do after everything is fixed?

FAUST

What?

ERIKA

After the town is better? Are you leaving again?

Faust takes a long look around the town.

FAUST

No, no I think I'll stick around. At least for a while.

Erika's face brightens.

ERIKA
You promise?

Faust laughs.

FAUST
I promise.

FAUST CARRIES TILES UP TO THE ROOF

EXT. FAUST'S NEW HOME - AFTERNOON

Faust steps back and wipes his brow, smiling.

In front of him is a quaint, one story house. It fits in with the surrounding town, sitting close to Gerlinde's.

CUT TO:

ERIKA

Leaning out her window, yelling down to Faust.

ERIKA
Woaaaaah! Is it finished?

FAUST
Almost. I've got one last thing I want to do.

CUT TO:

BEHIND THE HOUSE

Faust stands over a small hole in the dirt, a shovel to his side. He reaches into a pocket and drops something in the grave.

FAUST
Thank you, for everything.

He refills the hole, slowly, eyes well with tears. When he finishes he turns and leaves

FRONT OF SIGN

As Faust walks away, we can see the front of the post. "Ardor, a dear friend" is written across it.

INT. FAUST'S NEW HOME, BEDROOM - MORNING

Sunlight filters through the windows. A KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK at the front door.

Faust wakes up, yawning and stretching. He is in a real bed, in a real house. He is a few years older, his eyes are brighter.

Faust pulls on a shirt.

INT. FAUST'S NEW HOME, MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The house is warm and inviting, messy in the lived in way. No jars of medicine in sight, just a collection of small plant pots all around.

Another KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK at the front door, a little faster this time.

Faust laughs. A real, hearty laugh we haven't heard.

FAUST
I'm coming, I'm coming!

Faust opens to door revealing

Erika, also older, bouncing excitedly. She is wearing simple traveling clothes and leather braces, hefty boots, and a pack slung across her back.

ERIKA
Come oooonn todays the day! You promised!

FAUST
I know, I know! Let me get my stuff together, I only just woke up.

Erika huffs and rolls her eyes, then comes in and sits down.

Faust pulls on traveling clothes, his familiar boots and pack, and the familiar bow and quiver. He also grabs a smaller, cloth covered object and puts it in his pack.

FAUST (cont'd)
Alright, just one more step.

ERIKA
Hm?

FAUST
Can't leave without saying our
goodbyes, now can we.

ERIKA
Fiiiiiiine.

EXT. FAUST'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Faust stands at Ardor's makeshift grave. It's surrounded by flowers of red and gold, instead of freshly dug dirt. Erika stands a few feet back.

FAUST
You were right, Ardor. You didn't
ruin my life...you saved it. And I
will never forget that.

Faust wipes a tear from his face, then gets up.

EXT. GERLINDE'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Erika and Gerlinde stand in a tight hug in the doorway. Faust stands off to the side, looking to the sky.

GERLINDE
Ohhh I'm going to miss you so much.

ERIKA
Ma...please...can't...breathe

Gerlinde releases her daughter.

GERLINDE
Just...be safe. And don't forget
about me! Promise?

ERIKA
I promise.

GERLINDE
I love you, dear.

She gives her a big kiss on the cheek.

ERIKA
I love you too ma.

Gerlinde points to Faust.

GERLINDE
And you!

Faust turns, surprised.

GERLINDE (cont'd)
If she comes back with so much as a
scratch, it's your head. Got it?

Faust laughs, Erika rolls her eyes.

FAUST
She'll be in the safest hands
possible.

GERLINDE
Oh alright, good luck you two.

Gerlinde waves as Faust and Erika turn down the road. They walk the direction Faust originally arrived from.

EXT. HOENFELST EDGE OF TOWN - MOMENTS LATER

Faust and Erika walk just past the last houses of town.

FAUST
Hold on just a second.

The two stop. Erika looks confused.

ERIKA
What now?

Faust reaches into his pack and pulls out the cloth wrapped object.

FAUST
I got you something.

He hands it to her. She carefully unwraps it revealing a bow and small quiver. Erika's eyes go wide.

ERIKA
This is...for me? Thank you thank you
thank you!

FAUST
I figured if we're going to be
travelling, you shouldn't be empty
handed.

He takes the items from her.

FAUST (cont'd)
But, I am going to hold on to them
until I know you won't kill yourself
by accident.

ERIKA
When can I start practicing!

Faust laughs and tussles her hair.

FAUST
When I'm sure we're far enough away
your mother won't gut me for giving
you a weapon.

The two continue walking, down the road. They laugh and joke
and smile.

FADE OUT.

END