

Eragon Prologue
Scriptment

for
Arcaena & MCalagaesia

EXT. ABOVE THE FOREST - NIGHT

Tilt down from the crescent moon to the forest below. The trees sway slightly in the wind. A group of figures can be seen moving through the trees, their torchlight casting tall shadows. Suddenly, their leader stops and tends to his horse.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - AMONGST THE TREES - NIGHT

DURZA, a SHADE, lifts his head and sniffs the air. His eyes open wide in surprise when he smells what he has been waiting for.

DURZA

(icily)

Spread out. Hide behind the trees.
I don't need to remind you what
happens if you fail.

Twelve URGALS carrying IRON AXES and BOWS hurry to follow his orders. Durza stands with his back to a tree. He looks around it and up the path, waiting, motionless. He holds his IRON SWORD low. The Urgals extinguish their torches in the dirt.

FADE TO BLACK

LATER

A wolf stalks into the frame, looking upon the scene with interest. It sniffs the night air before continuing on. In the silence we hear the soft woosh of an owl landing on the branches above. It hoots.

CUT TO:

The shadows cast by the moonlight have moved, indicating many hours have passed. The group hears the distant sound of three horses cantering up the path towards the ambush. Durza moves for the first time in hours.

DURZA

(hiss)

Get ready!

He moves his sword to the ready. The Urgals look excited and ready their weapons.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST PATH - NIGHT

TRACK three WHITE HORSES canter down the path in single file. Riding the first is a male elf with a BOW on his back and an IRON SWORD at his side. Bringing up the rear is a male elf with carrying a SPEAR in his right hand and a DAGGER at his belt. He wears a GOLD HEMLET.

Between these two is the daughter of the elf queen, ARYA. She carries an IRON SWORD at her side and a BOW on her back. Sitting on her lap is a large pouch with a strap around her neck. She glances at the pouch as they ride.

The riders pass Durza's hiding place. The ambush is set. Nobody notices the gentle wind change.

Chaos: The horses smell the Urgals and rear their heads, snorting with alarm. The three riders stiffen, alert. Their eyes flash side to side, attempting to find the danger.

ARYA
(shout)
Ganga aptr!

The riders wheel their horses around and gallop back down the path the way they came. Arya's horse surges forward, faster than the rest.

DURZA
(shout)
Garjzla!

A ball of red fire flashes from his palm, illuminating the trees with red light as it speeds towards Arya. The curse strikes her horse. Injured, the horse topples. Momentum carries it forwards and it ploughs into the ground chest-first. Arya leaps gracefully off her horse and whips around, looking behind for her guards.

ARYA
(whisper)
Faolin, ne!

She watches as her guards fight and succumb to the Urgal's arrows, yet she is too far away to help them. The Urgals close in on the guards.

DURZA
(angrily)
No! Leave them! She is the one I want!

Durza points at Arya with his sword. The Urgals rush towards her. She sees her dead companions.

ARYA
(gasp)
Ne!
(beat)
(curses under her breath)
Sundavr nangoroth.

Out of options, she leaps off the path and runs into the forest.

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - ROCKY OUTCROP - NIGHT

Durza climbs the rock. In the background, the Urgals crash clumsily through the trees in stark contrast to Arya's graceful run.

From his vantage point on the rock, Durza stretches out his arm to cast a spell.

DURZA
(under his breath)
Boetq istalri!

The tree under Durza's hand explodes into flames. He sweeps his hand around, forming a circle of fire around the ambush site.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - AMONGST THE TREES - NIGHT

Fire everywhere. Arya is running through the trees, leaping over boulders and logs. She ducks under an arrow. Three Urgals run out in front of her. She skids to a halt as they fire their arrows.

ARYA
(shout)
Thrysta oro!

Her spell causes the Urgal's arrows curve back and hit their owners, mortally wounding them. Trapped by the fire moving in, Arya turns and runs back towards the rocky outcrop.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - ROCKY OUTCROP - NIGHT

Durza watches Arya run towards his rock. He judges the distance, then jumps down to the ground, landing in front of her. Arya skids around and starts running back, but the remaining nine Urgals close in. She looks around for a way out. Seeing none, she stands up straight and turns back to face Durza, defiant.

Durza walks calmly towards her with his hand raised to stall the Urgals. They obey, waiting for his command.

He pauses. A smile curls his lips as he enjoys her helplessness for a second, then-

DURZA
(calmly)
Get her.

As the Urgals surge forward, Arya springs to action, but not to save herself. She pulls a BLUE DRAGON EGG from the pouch.

The pouch drops to the ground as she raises the egg high above her head. Durza's eyes widen in panic.

ARYA
(frantic)
Thverr deloi un eitha finna fra
haina!

DURZA
Garjzla!

The ball of red fire flies towards Arya as she finishes her spell. A flash of green light; the stone vanishes, then Arya collapses as Durza's spell hits her.

A second of silence, then-

DURZA
(howl of rage)

Durza flings his sword at a tree in anger - it sticks in halfway through the trunk. The Urgals look from him to each other, scared - but before they can do anything, Durza turns on the spot, firing a ball of red fire from his palms at each Urgal. The last few start to run, but the spells catch up with them. All nine collapse, dead.

He recovers his sword from the tree and stares down at the unconscious Arya.

FADE TO:

EXT. ABOVE THE FOREST - NIGHT

The camera slowly pulls out as Durza ties Arya to the saddle of his black horse. He mounts it as well. They turn around and canter away from the rocky outcrop. Tilt up to view the blazing forest. Durza raises his arm to make a gap in the fire, but he leaves the rest to burn.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END