

CONFRONTATION

Written by

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EXT. WILLOWROCK MOUNTAIN - DAY

The area is overcast by the shadow of a somewhat small mountain directly ahead.

LEKO looks up to the mountain, fingers tapping the two swords at his waist. His green eyes glow faintly as his attention turns back to the dim area around him. His lips form a calm, sharp-toothed smile.

A small medallion with the symbol of a storm cloud adorning the center glows from around Leko's neck. The voice of ASHEN, female, comes from it.

ASHEN (V.O.)  
This is it, child of the forest.  
Your enemy lies unknowing.

Leko's grip on his swords tightens as he pulls them out.

LEKO  
Then let's get on with it.

He starts up the mountain path, keeping low to the ground as he walks.

LEKO (CONT'D)  
So, what should I be preparing  
myself for?

ASHEN (V.O.)  
The creature we hunt has grown much  
since last you encountered it. This  
is not the sort of threat that you  
can just dance your way around to  
tire it out.

LEKO  
At the same time, it's a dragon. I  
can't just go at it head-on.

ASHEN (V.O.)  
Then use the two advantages you do  
have above it.

There is a short silence as Leko continues to climb. His eyes cast up and the view follows. Through the conversation, they've made it about a third of the way up the mountain.

LEKO  
Surprise I get. That's the obvious  
one. What's the second supposed to  
be?

ASHEN (V.O.)  
This beast has been resting for a  
very long time. Its mind won't be  
able to match your own.

Leko scowls, looking down to the medallion.

LEKO  
You expect me to outwit a dragon?  
How exactly would I do that?

ASHEN (V.O.)  
When you get to its lair, take note  
of your surroundings. Learn the  
dragon's home as well as it has.

LEKO  
Wouldn't that involve not letting  
myself be known? Can't dragons tell  
when someone's in their home?

ASHEN (V.O.)  
Leave that to me.

Leko rolls his eyes and continues up the path. Heavy wind  
starts to blow against him, and he puts his hood up as his  
journey continues.

CUT TO:

INT. DRAGON'S CAVE - AFTERNOON

Leko stands in the mouth of a large cave. The shimmering  
scales of a silver dragon are just barely visible from  
within.

ASHEN (V.O.)  
Now, little one, take note. What is  
it that you see?

Leko quietly steps further into the cave, glancing around.

LEKO  
The space is wide open. Enough for  
multiple dragons. So getting around  
won't be too much of an issue.

ASHEN (V.O.)  
Look up as well. Take note of any  
possible advantages you have.

Leko's gaze rises to the top of the cave. More becomes visible, showing the large silver dragon, RAO, and a bundle of sharp rocks hanging down from the ceiling.

LEKO

Good call. There are stalactites up there. That could make this so much easier.

Leko puts his swords away and pulls a longbow from his back. He knocks an arrow, looking up at the stalactites.

ASHEN (V.O.)

Very good, Leko. Aim true, and your vengeance will be swiftly assured.

Leko draws the string back, his eyes narrowing as he aims.

LEKO

This is for my people. I'm just doing what I need to, in order to bring them to rest.

Leko releases the arrow, which flies towards the rocks.

With a quick movement of its tail, the dragon swats up and knocks the arrow out of the way. As the tail hits the ground once more, the ground shakes.

Slowly, the dragon rises onto its feet, taking a moment to stretch its wings.

RAO

Why do you shoot within my cave, forest child?

LEKO

Not a child. And there is no forest to go back to either. You made sure of that.

ASHEN (V.O.)

Leko, it's time to fight. Shoot it.

As Leko knocks another arrow, the dragon sits down, craning its neck down to let its head meet Leko's eyes.

RAO

I believe you have me confused. I would not be so rash as to destroy any piece of nature.

ASHEN (V.O.)  
He lies. This is the dragon that  
destroyed your home.

Leko hesitates. The bow is still trained on the dragon.

LEKO  
I have reason to believe it was  
you. Do you have any way to prove  
otherwise?

The dragon's head leans down even further, resting on the  
ground in front of Leko.

RAO  
Proof? No, I have no such thing.  
All you have is my word.

LEKO  
No offense, but as the world is  
right now, the word of dragons  
isn't exactly taken in very high  
regard.

Rao closes his eyes.

RAO  
I am very well aware of what the  
world thinks, which is why I choose  
to stay in my home.

Leko slowly starts to lower his bow.

ASHEN (V.O.)  
What are you doing? Strike while  
you still have a chance!

LEKO  
Patience. I'm not going to attack  
someone who isn't fighting back. No  
matter who, or *what*, it is.

Rao's eyes open again, and he tilts his head.

RAO  
Who are you talking to, fey? Have  
you an unseen ally?

LEKO  
Of sorts. I have my own proof that  
you are who I claimed you to be.

RAO  
And what might that proof be, who  
knows where I have been better than  
I do?

Leko takes one hand off of his bow and takes the medallion,  
lifting it for the dragon to see.

An exasperated huff comes from Rao, mixed with a cold mist.

RAO (CONT'D)  
I see. You're working with them,  
are you?

LEKO  
I work alone. This medallion was  
all that was left from my home, and  
the voice within told me to become  
strong in order to avenge my  
people.

RAO  
I would go off on the brashness of  
mortals, but your people have the  
ability to live through any age.

LEKO  
*Had.* The attack destroyed our  
forest. My immortality went with  
it.

RAO  
You know... There may still be a  
way to salvage that.

ASHEN (V.O.)  
More lies! Child of nature, I  
demand that you kill this beast at  
once!

Leko winces at the loudness of the voice within his head, and  
he squeezes the medallion.

LEKO  
No, no... The voice told me-

RAO  
*The voice* is of a group that  
enslaves my kind. Forces them to do  
things that are against our nature.

LEKO  
I don't suppose you have any proof  
of your own claims?

Rao huffs once more. He turns his head to a discarded shield laying against the walls of the cave.

RAO

Look upon the items left behind  
from the last person who came to my  
cave. I believe you'll also find a  
few of my scales alongside what she  
left behind.

Leko walks to the shield, brushing dirt from its face until a symbol was visible. The same storming cloud from his medallion.

ASHEN (V.O.)

The beast kept my belongings, eh?  
As a trophy of pride over his  
victory, no doubt.

LEKO

So you admit to having fought him  
before? Even after telling me that  
you'd only just discovered his  
location?

ASHEN (V.O.)

What does it matter? There's a  
beast before you. Slay it.

LEKO

It matters because if you've lied  
about this, how can I believe  
anything else you've told me?

No response comes from Ashen. Leko's gaze once again rises to the dragon.

LEKO (CONT'D)

When you say they make you do  
things against your nature, do you  
mean like...

RAO

Destroying the world that we have  
lived in and watched over for  
millennia? Yes.

LEKO

But if they can control dragons,  
why have you killed? None of this  
is making sense.

Rao bares his sharp teeth into a smile.

RAO

Some of us are stronger of will.  
Those who cannot be controlled must  
be destroyed, lest a rebellion be  
ignited.

LEKO

So they want you dead because they  
can't take over your mind?

RAO

Precisely. While they're at it, why  
not drag along a powerful ally with  
a quest for revenge?

Leko slowly nods, a look of shock across his face.

LEKO

So the entire time I've been  
looking for you... Not only have I  
been after the wrong dragon, but  
the dragon I was looking for was  
working for the person whose been  
helping me?

When the dragon nods, Leko lowers his head, letting the  
medallion fall limply along his neck.

RAO

Do not feel ashamed, little one.  
You were distraught, I'm sure. One  
has the capability to do anything  
to avenge those they loved.

ASHEN (V.O.)

You aren't truly buying into this,  
are you? It's a ploy to gain your  
trust!

Leko once again winces at the loudness of the voice. His  
hands press against his head.

LEKO

There's already been one attack on  
my trust, and it was not from the  
dragon!

Rao extends a claw, carefully looping it into the chain of  
the medallion, and yanking it off.

RAO

You will be silent.

Leko looks up to the dragon, then quickly lowers his head.

LEKO

I... I apologize for invading your home. And for accusing you of something you had no involvement in.

RAO

Do not apologize. However, I'm sure one very important fact has come to your attention, yes?

Leko nods firmly.

LEKO

My quest isn't over. In fact, it just got a lot more complicated, didn't it?

RAO

For now, do not worry about the complications. I will tell you all I know of this group. The Frozen Heart, they call themselves.

Leko sits down on the floor, resting his bow in his lap.

LEKO

After that, what do I need to do?

RAO

First thing's first. You must gather allies. This adventure will be long and difficult, however I believe the end result will be to your liking. By the end, you will have learned the secret to regrowing your home.

**END**