

DARRYN THE BOLD  
AND THE SWORD OF BOLDNESS

Genre: Fantasy/Comedy

Logline: When a past-his-prime knight is asked by a young girl to find a fabled sword and rescue her father, his quest leads him to his arch-enemy, who killed him the last time they met.

Justin Best  
917.363.0721  
justinmbest@gmail.com  
bxbstudios.com  
#1911943

INT. FANTASY FORGE - NIGHT.

Flames burn in the darkness. A female voice speaks.

KALA (V.O.)  
The Sword of Boldness was the  
greatest sword ever created.

A council of wizards - both human and anthropomorphic  
animals, including one robed TIGER we'll come to know as  
DANCER- stand around a sword mold.

KALA (V.O.)  
The world's most powerful wizards  
created The Sword in order to  
imprison the demon, Tiamon.

The sword smelts in the fantasy forge and we're...

EXT. CLIFFS OF HELL - NIGHT.

Lava flows all around. An EPIC FANTASY KNIGHT, SWORD OF  
BOLDNESS in hand, faces off with TIAMON, a HUGE demon with  
spike-like horns and a skull for a face.

KALA (V.O.)  
With The Sword, the heroes of men  
defeated Tiamon and imprisoned him  
in the darkest realms of hell.

The warrior strikes the demon with The Sword. Tiamon screams  
in pain! He grabs our hero and both tumble into the abyss.  
Our hero drops The Sword, and it teeters on the cliff's edge.

INT. CASTLE - BEDROOM - DAY.

DARRYN (40s), fit, handsome, definition of a hero, and a  
mysterious woman, KALA (20s), lie in bed, post-coitus.

DARRYN  
But throughout time The Sword was  
lost... If it were ever to fall  
into the wrong hands, the demon  
would be free. yadayada...Boring!

Darryn leans back, confident.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
You wanna hear a story, Katie?

KALA  
Kala.

DARRYN

Did I tell you how I killed the  
Bridge Troll of Cralix?

FLASHBACK - EXT. FANTASY BRIDGE - DAY

Darryn stands at one end of a long bridge, miles across and a long way down. Two eyes suddenly open beneath the bridge.

The eyes lumber from the shadows, giving shape to a MASSIVE BRIDGE TROLL! Hundreds of feet tall with a scarred, knotted face that not even a troll mother could love.

DARRYN (V.O.)

With the Righteous Knife of  
Righteousness, I charged at the  
troll and...

Darryn, shiny, magical knife in hand, runs at the troll, lets out a loud war cry! And we shift to...

FLASHBACK - EXT. FOREST - DAY

Trees burning everywhere. Darryn LEAPS through the fire and races toward a sword stuck in a tree.

DARRYN (V.O.)

Or how about the time I used the  
Talking Sword of Vik to kill the  
Demon Bears?

He pulls THE TALKING SWORD OF VIK from the tree.

TALKING SWORD OF VIK

Finally! You do not know how long  
I've been stuck in there! Gods, its  
hot. Oh, look out behind you.

Darryn turns to see CAR-SIZED BEARS with flames for eyes surrounding him. He holds the sword, ready for battle.

TALKING SWORD OF VIK (CONT'D)

Please don't use me for slashing  
things! I'm not that kind of - agh!

Darryn leaps toward the bears! Offscreen, whimpering sounds, as bear-blood splatters on Darryn.

KALA (V.O.)

Wow. So amazing.

DARRYN (V.O.)  
That's nothing Kendra.

KALA (V.O.)  
Kala.

FLASHBACK - EXT. SKY - DAY

Darryn swings a magnificent blade as he soars through the air on the back of a Griffin, an eagle/lion/horse creature.

DARRYN (V.O.)  
What about when I used the magical  
Elven Blade of Alderwood to slay  
the Great Red Dragon of Pondor!

Suddenly - A MONSTROUS RED DRAGON! Darryn FLIES UPSIDE DOWN over the dragon, drops on its head, and buries the sword in the monster's skull.

BACK TO THE BEDROOM.

Kala turns her head, rolls her eyes, and reaches for a drink. She raises the glass and SPITS in it. Gross.

DARRYN  
Yep, Katherine...

KALA  
Kala.

DARRYN  
If there's two things Darryn the  
Bold is good at it's finding  
swords, killing bad guys, and being  
totally badass.

Kala pauses, looks confused, and then hands Darryn the glass. He drinks it without thinking, the gross spittle going into his mouth, and leaps out of the bed, knocking Kala back.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
I guess you could say I'm one  
badass warrior knight. And humble.

Darryn stands proud. Power stance! Freeze on Darryn.

SUPER: DARRYN THE BOLD. BADASS WARRIOR KNIGHT (AND HUMBLE).

Kala produces a knife from somewhere under the sheets. Darryn is still oblivious.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

But none of that compares to this!

A sword leans against the wall. Darryn pulls it from the sheathe, twirls it in a flurry. It's a beautiful blade. Kala temporarily hides her knife, and is actually impressed.

KALA

The Sword of Awesomeness. The second greatest sword ever.

DARRYN

Second? Everyone knows The Sword of Boldness is not real. Also, how do you know so much about swords?

Kala approaches Darryn, knife behind her back.

KALA

I've studied swords my whole life.

DARRYN

That's a weird hobby for a girl.

Darryn holds his tummy. He's looking a little sick.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

I'm not feeling so good.

Kala smiles an evil smile.

KALA

That's because I -

BOOM! A young SERVANT bursts through the door.

SERVANT

Darryn the Bold, sir, the kingdom is under attack and the king -

He notices the situation.

SERVANT (CONT'D)

Uhm, sir, the, uh, king requests-

Darryn smiles.

DARRYN

Tell him I'm on my way.

He turns to Kala, shrugs.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Hero stuff.

Following the servant, JYNNY (30s), stereotypical medieval princess appearance, but tougher than she looks, busts in.

JYNNY

Darryn! The kingdom is under  
attack. Father needs your help -

Now Jynny notices the situation. Darryn smiles again.

DARRYN

Hi Jynny.

JYNNY

Darryn! You son of a -

Pause on Jynny. Angry.

SUPER: "JYNNY. DARRYN'S ~~GIRLFRIEND~~ - IT'S COMPLICATED."

Kala flashes another evil smile and escapes out a window.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

Darryn rides proudly on a mighty warhorse through the ranks of soldiers. They turn and look at him in awe.

YOUNG SOLDIER 1

I heard Darryn stopped a whole pack  
of Wolf Rats single-handed.

YOUNG SOLDIER 2

I heard he killed the Werewolf of  
Zars without using any silver.

OLD SOLDIER

I heard he saved a whole convent of  
Spice Nuns from their vows of  
chastity.

SOLDIERS

Darryn! Darryn! Darryn!

Darryn continues to ride, as the soldiers cheer.

DARRYN

Oh no. Please. Stop. I'm just here  
to help. Please. Well, ok.

His words say stop, but Darryn, huge smile on his face,  
motions for the soldiers to keep cheering.

Darryn rides to the front of the line where KING RAWLIN  
(60s), older, but still strong, surveys the battlefield.

KING RAWLIN

Darryn, you've served me well over the years.

DARRYN

And you've paid me well. Plus your daughter is mega-hot, so there's that.

Rawlin has the patience of a saint.

KING RAWLIN

Yes, we look forward to the wedding. But today, I fear, is our greatest threat yet. Finally, The Hammer has come to Azmoor.

We ZOOM across the battlefield where stands...

THE HAMMER (20s), probably named that because he carries a huge hammer in his hand. Eight-feet of evil incarnate, covered head-to-toe in blood and death and spiky armor, surrounded by his army.

DARRYN

Rawl, if there's two things I'm good at, it's finding swords, killing bad guys, and -

KING RAWLIN

Darryn. Please. Just save Azmoor.

On the other side of the battlefield, The Hammer raises his war hammer and swings it down HARD on the ground. HAMMER SOLDIERS - black-armored with skull helmets- charge forward.

Darryn steps forward, cracks his knuckles, and smiles.

DARRYN

Time to get serious.

Darryn charges, the king's men right behind him!

On the battlefield, an epic battle rages. Darryn slices through The Hammer's soldiers. The Hammer smashes the king's men, until the two finally come face-to-face.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Give up, Hammer. It's over.

Steam emanates from the T-shaped slit in The Hammer's helmet. He removes the helmet and reveals that he is a SHE. THE HAMMER IS A WOMAN. A massive bald woman with piercings and spikes all through her face and head. Major daddy issues.

THE HAMMER

Darryn the Bold. We meet at last.

DARRYN

You're a girl! I have to say that is unexpected.

THE HAMMER

You'll have lots of time to think about it in the afterlife.

The Hammer swings her hammer at Darryn, just missing.

They go back-and-forth. Darryn swings his sword again and again, but misses each time. For such a large woman, The Hammer is surprisingly fast. Or is Darryn just a half-a-tick slower than usual?

The Hammer KICKS Darryn, and he slides through the mud. She stands over him, raises her hammer high, and he rolls away at the last second.

Darryn stumbles to his feet, grabs his stomach.

DARRYN

Ugh, what is up? It couldn't have been all that alcohol I drank, could it?

Darryn's eyes go blank and we

PUSH INTO DARRYN'S EYE

And zoom fast through his veins and arteries until we reach

HIS STOMACH

Where Kala's saliva has spread out, taking over his body. We reverse, back through Darryn's body and

PUSH OUT OF HIS EYE AND BACK TO THE BATTLE

Darryn shakes his head and his eyes go back to normal.

He may be slower, but for all of his arrogance and stupidity and womanizing, Darryn is really friggin' good at fighting.

Too stupid to be afraid, Darryn kicks it up a notch. He and The Hammer go back and forth. Finally, he breaks through her defenses. The Hammer falls to her knees.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

You thought you had me, huh?



Darryn points to his sword.

DARRYN (CONT'D)  
Sword of Awesomeness. Greatest  
sword ever created.

She only smiles as he swings his sword down. Just as it's about to connect, her face piercings burn an evil red.

CLANK! The sword MELTS over her head. Metal drips down, burning itself into her face. The Hammer laughs.

Darryn's seen a lot of things, but...

THE HAMMER  
I truly thought you'd be tougher.

The Hammer gets to her feet. Darryn charges, but she easily knocks him to the ground, places her big boot on his chest.

THE HAMMER (CONT'D)  
But once again, I'm let down.

A horse rides up fast. A lean figure, face half hidden.

Is that? OMG! It is! It's Kala (if that even is her real name!), except now she wears leather armor and a half-skull mask. From now on, we'll call her SKULL WOMAN.

Skull Woman jumps off her horse, removes her mask.

SKULL WOMAN  
Hello, Darryn the Bold.

DARRYN  
Kaitlyn! I thought we had something special.

THE HAMMER  
You're nothing special, Darryn.

DARRYN'S POV.

The Hammer holds her hammer high and swings it down. Boom!

Blackness.

EXT. THE DEATH DIMENSION - TAVERN - NIGHT

Out of the blackness, a tavern forms. It's medieval spring break - Knights party. Dwarfs do keg stands. Scantily-clad women drink. They see Darryn in the distance and cheer.

TAVERN CROWD  
Darryn! Hey Darryn! Darryn!

Darryn stands up, rubs his head. He's beat up, but whole.

DARRYN  
Where am I?

The tavern crowd continue to cheer, waves DTB over.

TAVERN CROWD  
Darryn! Let's go! C'mon!

Darryn shrugs and smiles as he walks toward the crowd, until-

Out of nowhere, a hand appears on his chest. More like a paw really. A tiger's paw, with many expensive rings.

The paw leads to the arm which leads to the body of a hooded figure. Under the hood, glowing, yellow cat's eyes. This is DANCER (50s), a Rakshasa (aka tiger wizard).

DANCER  
Come with me, Darryn.

Darryn looks to Dancer, to the party, back to Dancer.

DARRYN  
Nope. I'm good.

He tries to walk past Dancer. Dancer does not move his hand.

TAVERN CROWD  
Hey! Let him go! Let's party!

Dancer snaps his fingers. The party disappears. Nothing left but nothingness.

DARRYN  
Aw! What the...

DANCER  
It is not your time.

DARRYN  
My time? Wait. Where exactly...

DANCER  
Dark times are upon us, and you have an important role to play.

DARRYN  
Why didn't you say so? Let's just talk terms. Did I tell you how I-

DANCER

Shut up Darryn. I'm giving you a gift. I just need you to be you.

DARRYN

Sounds easy enough. Who are - aggh!

Dancer places his hands back on Darryn's chest. Darryn screams in pain. A BLINDING WHITE LIGHT dissolves into...

EXT. MUDDY ROAD - NIGHT

Rain pours down. A small hooded figure slips and slides its way through the mud. Lightning crashes and we get our first glimpse of AMARISA (14). Bookish. Young, but determined

She runs into a black-armored HAMMER SOLDIER. He sneers and pushes her away.

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Amarisa makes her way through the tavern where she finds a large warrior-type. From the back, looks kinda like Darryn.

The warrior turns around and - it's not Darryn. Amarisa throws a few coins on the table. The warrior laughs and shakes his head no. She gathers up her money.

EXT. MUDDY ROAD - NIGHT

Back out in the rain, more Hammer Soldiers stalk the streets, bullying and harassing townspeople. Amarisa pulls her hood up, puts her head down, and walks on.

INT. THE NEXT TAVERN - NIGHT

Another tough, scarred warrior. This one looks a little crazier. She throws her money down. Same result - No.

MONTAGE - AMARISA LOOKS FOR HELP

Amarisa goes from tavern to tavern, looking for someone - anyone! - to help her. Each "warrior" is worse than the last.

-- William the Able-Bodied -- He's ok. Not as tough looking as the other two. He shakes his head no.

-- John the Try-Hard -- Fat. Pimple-faced. Armor barely fits. Shakes his head no.

-- Steve the Average -- Skinny. Mousy. Coke-bottle glasses. Shakes his head no.

END MONTAGE

INT. TAVERN/INN - DAY

The kind of place where you'll catch something for sure, either a disease or a knife. Only the drunkest of the drunks.

Amarisa enters. Drenched, tired, but resilient. She cuts through the tavern to a lone table in the corner.

The table is littered with so many bottles and glasses that we can barely see the three men passed out there.

Amarisa pushes a few bottles off the table. CRASH! The men don't move. She throws her coins down. PLINK! PLINK! One of the passed-out men looks up, revealing his face.

Allow me to reintroduce myself - It's DARRYN THE BOLD. Bloated, dirty, broken. The worst-of-the-worst, but worse.

AMARISA

Are you Darryn The Bold?

DARRYN

Maybe. Who's asking?

Amarisa pulls back her hood to reveal a young girl, 14 going on 40. Darryn stares at her blankly.

AMARISA

If you're really him, tell me something great you've done.

DARRYN

Last night, I drank thirteen shots of Dragon's Fire. They said it was impossible, but I did it. I did it!

He yells out to the other drunks. They ignore him.

AMARISA

Starnicus wrote that drunkenness is the shield of the coward.

DARRYN

You don't get out much do you?

AMARISA

I get out. I went all the way to Thornbell, once.

Darryn, not impressed, takes a drink.

DARRYN

Girl, what do you want? You're cutting into my drinking time.

AMARISA

My name isn't "girl". It's Amarisa Albright, and I want to hire you.

Darryn looks over the few coins, stuffs them in his pocket.

DARRYN

Why? Your kitten stuck in a tree?

AMARISA

The Hammer has taken my father, and I need your help to get him back.

Darryn stares at her again, takes another shot.

DARRYN

What did you say?

AMARISA

I said The Hammer took -

DARRYN

Rhetorical question. Go away.

AMARISA

What? No. I -

DARRYN

I'm retired. Get someone else.

AMARISA

You think you were my first choice? You think I said, "Look at that old, fat guy passed out in the corner. That's the hero for me."

DARRYN

Is this how you make friends?

AMARISA

I've been out all night. In the rain. I went to the best: Turk the Destroyer, Polstan the Maniacal.

DARRYN

Turk's really not that great.

AMARISA

Even the not-so-best: William the  
Able-Bodied. John the Try-Hard.  
Steve the Average.

DARRYN

I don't know who those people are.

Amarisa sits down across from him.

AMARISA

Exactly. Now I'm here. With you.

Darryn puts her money back on the table.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Everything I've read said you were  
the best. What happened to you?

DARRYN

Uh, I got killed.

AMARISA

I know the story, but here you are  
with a second chance and you spend  
it drinking? Don't most people come  
back all fired up? "I'm gonna live  
everyday like it's my last! I know  
the true meaning of life!"

DARRYN

I do know the true meaning of life:  
To stay alive. I got nothing else  
to prove. My reputation is  
respected from here to the ends of  
the world. Everyone knows who I am.

One of the other men at the table, RYN THE RAT DRUNK, a  
drunken anthropomorphic rat, raises his ratty head.

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

Hey Derek, hand me that drink.

DARRYN

Ryn, I told you: It's Darryn.

Darryn hands Ryn the drink. The rat burps.

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

Right. Thanks, Derek.

Amarisa just stares at them.

AMARISA

Don't you wanna stop The Hammer?

Darryn thinks about it, maybe for the first time.

DARRYN

I don't know. Is one loss that bad?

On the other side, KYN THE CAT DRUNK, raises his cat head.

KYN THE CAT DRUNK

Yeah girl. Why do you only focus on the negative? David here, he killed the goblins of -

DARRYN

Not David.

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

Yeah, idiot. Not David. Sharryn.

KYN THE CAT DRUNK

Larry?

Amarisa stands up.

AMARISA

Forget it. You're still dead. Maybe you always were.

DARRYN

Here's my advice, free of charge. You're a small girl with a small amount of money. Go get yourself a small drink and forget all about your father. He's as good as dead.

AMARISA

I'm not gonna give up. I'll get the Sword of Boldness and rescue my father myself if I have to.

DARRYN

Ha! Why is everyone always going on about the Sword of Boldness?

Amarisa turns back.

AMARISA

Because its the most powerful sword ever created.

DARRYN

It's a story. It doesn't exist.

AMARISA

Just because you never found it,  
doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

Amarisa pulls a worn DIARY out of her pack.

AMARISA (CONT'D)

Before The Hammer took my father,  
he gave me this. If the Hammer were  
to get The Sword -

DARRYN

She'd free the demon, end the  
world, yadayada.

He grabs the diary, flips through it. Notes. Diagrams. A MAP.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Shako. The Edge of the World.

AMARISA

Yes! It's in the Shako Swamps,  
guarded by some sort of creature.  
Think about it: Darryn the Bold.  
The Sword of Boldness. It's like  
fate... or something.

For a second, Darryn is excited. But then - he throws the  
diary back and takes a drink.

DARRYN

Nope. I'm good.

Amarisa is exasperated. Darryn does another shot.

AMARISA

You wanna hide out here? Fine.  
After all I read, I expected more.  
But I guess this is the real you.  
So you just stay here and be - you!

Amarisa hurries up stairs. Darryn takes a shot and stands up.

DARRYN

You think you can find the SoB and  
kill The Hammer? Fine! I'm staying  
here and - oh. Stood up too fast.

Darryn, drunk and stupid, falls to the ground, blacks out.

EXT. THE DEATH DIMENSION - DARRYN'S DRUNKEN DREAM

Darryn floats through blackness. Dancer's head floats past.



DANCER

I just need you to be - you.

DARRYN

What does that mean? Who am I?

More talking heads float by.

KYN THE CAT DRUNK

David... Larry...

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

Derek... Sharryn...

KALA

...Wow. So amazing...

AMARISA

...you were the best...

SOLDIERS

...Darryn! Darryn! Darryn!...

The images and voices grow faster and faster, converging into a hyperspeed blur of white light and noise until we're...

INT. TAVERN/INN - NIGHT

Much livelier than before. Two floors full of music, drinking, and the most fantastic group of creatures ever.

Darryn's still on the floor where he passed out that morning. Creatures step on him, around him, but no one helps him.

Darryn stands up - a momentary moment of clarity.

He pushes his way through the crowd and up the stairs. He stops at the top, breathing hard.

DARRYN

A few more stairs than I remember.

ON THE SECOND FLOOR now, there's a few doors. He heads to the first, raises his hand to knock, stops. Girlish giggles. A man's laugh. Sounds like they're having a very good time.

Darryn walks on, stops, comes back for another quick listen. Yep, still having fun. On to the next door. He knocks.

AMARISA

Ok, I'm ready. Let me just- Darryn!

DARRYN

All right, girl. I'll do it.

AMARISA

What? What are you doing here? How did you even know where I was?

DARRYN

I had a vision.

AMARISA

What? You're drunk.

DARRYN

Yes, but that's not the point.

Darryn walks past her and into

AMARISA'S ROOM

Small. Sparse. A bed with a backpack and some THICK books. Darryn casually grabs a book.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Is this your plan? To bore The Hammer to death?

AMARISA

Gimme that.

Amarisa grabs the book, stuffs it into a backpack that's already full to bursting.

DARRYN

You can't fight with books, girl.

AMARISA

How would you know? Probably the first time you've ever held one.

DARRYN

So? Here's the deal. We'll get the SoB, kill The Hammer, and save dad. What about mom? She around? Is it, like, serious between them?

AMARISA

Ugh! Will you just get out of here? I don't need you. I got someone.

DARRYN

What?

AMARISA

I got someone else. He overheard our conversation. Said he'd do it.

DARRYN

What happened to "Oh Darryn, I went to everyone. Help me, Darryn."

She shrugs, stuffs another thick book into her pack.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

I'll do it for half of what you're paying him.

AMARISA

He's doing it for free. Something about heroes not taking money.

DARRYN

Then I'll do it for free. That's a one time offer by the way.

AMARISA

He's already on his way.

She tries to tighten the straps on her bag. Too full.

DARRYN

But has he fought in four pitched battles? Has he dueled the King of the savage Northern Tribes? Has he-

AMARISA

No, but he's young and handsome and he looks like he can swing a sword. I bet you couldn't even make it up a flight of stairs without stopping to catch your breath.

DARRYN

Is he in any of your books?

She stops stuffing books into her bag, looks at him.

AMARISA

Why are you even here? I've got no money, and you said yourself you've got nothing left to prove.

DARRYN

It's like you said: I'm the greatest warrior ever and -

AMARISA

That's not exactly what I said.

DARRYN

- it dawned on me today that, in my retirement, some people may have forgotten that. All I hear is Turk and Polstan and Steve! You're my friend, so I'm gonna tell you this.

AMARISA

I'm not your friend.

DARRYN

I think my reputation might be dying. If I don't do this quest, I could end up a drunk who dies in some crappy tavern with people not remembering me. But if I do do this quest, then I'll end up a drunk who dies in a crappy tavern with people knowing that I'm the best.

AMARISA

So... This is really more about your ego than helping me.

DARRYN

Yes! Now you're getting it!

A loud knock at the door.

AMARISA

Finally.

Amarisa throws on her overstuffed bag and opens the door.

Two Hammer soldiers. MUSTACHE has a black mustache and an evil smile. DARRYL THE BALD (aka BALDY) is bald and has been hit in the head one too many times.

BALDY

This her?

MUSTACHE SOLDIER

How many little girls you think are in this place? Grab her.

Baldy shrugs, wraps his meaty paw around Amarisa's wrist.

AMARISA

Ugh! Lemme go! Darryn, will you-

BALDY

Darryn? No, me name's Darr-yl.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER  
Not you, idiot.

Mustache notices Darryn and walks into the room.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER (CONT'D)  
You look familiar. Do I know you?

Darryn sucks in his gut, smiles.

DARRYN  
Of course you know me. I'm Darryn  
The Bold. Slayer of the Dragon of  
Pondor. Destroyer of the -

MUSTACHE SOLDIER  
No. That ain't it.

Mustache snaps his fingers.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER (CONT'D)  
You're the guy that I drag out of  
the gutters every morning. Hey,  
Darryl! Look. It's the guy I've  
been telling you about.

BALDY  
Huh-uh. He's fat like you said.

Darryn draws his sword. Mustache looks at him, unimpressed.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER  
You drunks. Always wanna fight.

CLANK! They cross swords, step, parry, and clash again, until  
Darryn DISARMS Mustache and knocks him to the ground.

Darryn holds his sword high. Mustache's eyes go wide as the  
sword comes down. WHIFF! Darryn completely MISSES with the  
killing blow, his sword STUCK in the floor's wooden planks.

AMARISA  
What the hell? How did you miss?

DARRYN  
I'm a little rusty. Also I'm drunk,  
and there's two of him.

Mustache, angry now, retreats behind Baldy.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER  
Darryl! Get him!

Baldy throws Amarisa down, draws his sword. Darryn reaches on the bed and tosses book after book as Baldy moves forward.

AMARISA

Hey! C'mon! Those are my books!

Baldy swings his sword. Darryn uses a book to block. The two parry and move in a classic book vs sword fight.

Baldy pushes Darryn back, and he reaches for another tome, quickly reads the title: "ANCIENT HISTORIES OF THE AZMOORIAN WARS AS RECALLED BY THE POET EURYLOCHUS, VOL. 1."

DARRYN

"Ancient Histories of..." Who reads these things?

Darryn blocks Baldy's sword with "Ancient Histories", a book so thick that the sword gets stuck in it. Baldy drops the sword and charges at Darryn, knocking him

THROUGH THE WALL AND INTO THE NEXT ROOM

Where a small dwarf and a large woman are in bed together. They both scream.

Baldy grabs Darryn and, just as his eyes roll back into his head, he's able to see Amarisa in HER ROOM. Mustache has her!

AMARISA

Let me go, you weirdo!

POW! POW! Baldy punches Darryn repeatedly in the face until Darryn grabs him and takes the fight out of the room and

INTO THE HALLWAY

Where they CRASH through the railing and fall

ONTO THE FIRST FLOOR

Where they go through a table of MINOTAUR DWARFS playing cards. They're bull-headed dwarfs (in every sense).

Darryn lands on top of Baldy, who's out cold. He slowly gets to his feet and sees more Hammer Soldiers with swords.

A tough, cigar-chomping Minotaur Dwarf looks to the broken table, to the Hammer soldiers, and finally to Darryn.

Now, as everyone knows, out of all dwarfs, Minotaur Dwarfs are the quickest to anger. Darryn smiles, nervously.

DARRYN

Hey, c'mon now. It wasn't my-

Cigar dwarf PUNCHES Darryn in the gut. Another minotaur dwarf charges at a Hammer soldier, goring him with his horns.

It's a full on bar-brawl! Soldiers match swords with mercenaries. Elves swing from chandeliers. A muscle-bound Troll tosses a man into a pile of orcs. Through it all, Darryn dodges and weaves, fighting as little as possible.

A woman holds a mug of ale over some poor sap's head when...

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Whoa ho ho! I'll take that.

Darryn grabs the mug, drinks the ale, and hands it back. SMASH! The woman drops it on the guy's noggin.

IN THE CORNER OF THE TAVERN, the brawl raging on, Ryn the Rat Drunk raises his head.

RYN THE RAT DRUNK

What's all this, huh?

Ryn looks around and STAB! A Hammer soldier guts him.

RYN THE RAT DRUNK (CONT'D)

Oh, that's not good.

Ryn falls dead. Kyn the Cat Drunk raises his head.

KYN THE CAT DRUNK

Hey! You can't do that. We're friends with Dylan the Bloated. He'll cut your head -agh!

A hammer soldier stabs Kyn.

KYN THE CAT DRUNK (CONT'D)

Oh, also not good.

Kyn also falls dead. Cut away from the corner and - where's Mustache? There he is, dragging Amarisa through the bar.

Darryn navigates through the ruckus until he's face-to-face with Mustache.

DARRYN

Let her go.

Mustache points his sword at Amarisa's neck.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER  
Back off, drunk, or I'll-

PLUNK! Mustache collapses as a sword hilt hits him from behind. Amarisa turns to see TOLAND (20s). Young, dashing, probably a vegan. The opposite of everything Darryn is now.

TOLAND  
Let's get you out of here.

Toland leads Amarisa through the bar, cutting down soldiers with ease. Darryn follows them outside.

EXT. MUDDY ROAD - NIGHT

Two horses, waiting nearby. Toland helps Amarisa up.

TOLAND  
Quick! On the horses.  
(To Amarisa)  
Follow our plan. Head for the meeting place. I'll find you there.  
(To Darryn)  
Sorry, I only brought two horses, but I did grab this.

Toland oh-so-gracefully tosses Darryn his sword. He whiffs it completely, and it plunks into the mud.

DARRYN  
What? How did you -

TOLAND  
I swung in through the upstairs window, hoping to get to Ms. Albright before the soldiers did. Unfortunately, I was too late.

DARRYN  
And who are you?

TOLAND  
I'm Toland Longstream. I'm helping Ms. Albright find her father.

Darryn picks up his sword, catches his breath.

DARRYN  
Oh, right. The handsome knight who doesn't take money.



TOLAND

Me? A knight? Oh, no, sir. I'm just a simple farmboy who practices swordplay for four hours a day because I know I'm meant to be much more than--Aaggh!!

SPLAT! A sword appears through Toland's gut. Who's holding the sword? It's MUSTACHE! Poor Toland. We barely knew you.

Darryn pushes Toland's dead body back on to Mustache, who collapses under the weight and falls into the mud. Darryn jumps up on to Toland's horse.

AMARISA

Where is To- Oh my gods!

DARRYN

Come on girl! Let's go!

AMARISA

But Toland! He's-

DARRYN

Dead. And we will be too if we don't move. C'mon!

Mustache digs himself out from under Toland's body, just in time to see Darryn and Amarisa ride away.

EXT. HAMMER'S CASTLE - NIGHT

An intimidating cliffside castle with spires so tall they almost pierce the half-lit moon.

THE HAMMER (V.O.)

I do not see the girl.

INT. HAMMER'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

A cold room full of stone and death.

The Hammer sits in a massive throne carved out of the wall. Her hand taps the handle of her hammer. Skull Woman stands nearby, watching. Waiting.

Shadows dance across the nervous face of Mustache.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER

You see, m'lord, there was a man-

THE HAMMER

You couldn't handle one man?

MUSTACHE SOLDIER

Well, he was quite good with a sword, but I did kill him.

The tapping grows faster, louder. Mustache notices.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER (CONT'D)

But then, uh, there was another man. Local drunk. Calls himself Darryn the Bold, like the old -

The tapping stops.

THE HAMMER

Darryn?

MUSTACHE SOLDIER

Yes, m'lord. Crazy old drunk who -

THE HAMMER

Why have I not heard this before?

The Hammer eyes him. Choose your words carefully, Mustache.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER

He's, uh, really nobody. He just -

The Hammer lazily waves Mustache forward. He approaches.

THE HAMMER

If there is someone going around calling himself Darryn the Bold, I want to know about it.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER

Yes, m'lord. It won't happen again.

THE HAMMER

I know.

Mustache closes his eyes tight and - nothing. He opens one eye, then the other. The Hammer stares at him.

MUSTACHE SOLDIER

That's it?

The Hammer gives him the get-out-of-here nod. Mustache looks around nervously, then runs out.

SKULL WOMAN

You've always been too soft sister.  
Your tolerance of failure is -

THE HAMMER

You speak to me of failure?

SKULL WOMAN

It's impossible. Even if you hadn't  
smashed Darryn's head, my poison -

THE HAMMER

We must be sure. No one is going to  
stop us from having that sword.

The darkness of the castle fades into...

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Amarisa watches as the city burns in the distance. Offscreen,  
loud snoring sounds.

She turns and we see Darryn, face down in the mud. Amarisa  
nudges him with her foot. He keeps snoring.

DARRYN

...Ooh. Meow. Bad kitty...

Amarisa scrunches her face, confused. She kicks him.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Ok. Ok. Now you call me kitty...

She kicks him again. HARD. Darryn shoots up.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Huh? What? Where are we?

Darryn gets to his feet and takes out a flask.

AMARISA

My home. My dad. Even Toland. All  
gone. But you're still here.

DARRYN

I know, right? So young and you're  
already on a quest with the  
greatest warrior of all time. Of  
course, when I was your age, I'd  
already killed the Serpent of Uth.

She stares daggers at him. He takes another drink.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

No one thought I stood a chance. I hadn't even had my first drink yet! Well, that's not true. I was quite drunk when that happened.

Amarisa shakes her head and climbs on to her horse.

EXT. FOREST - MAIN ROAD - DAY

They ride down a muddy forest road, Darryn still drinking. Amarisa reads the map.

DARRYN

Do you know where you're going?

AMARISA

The Sword is in Shako Swamp, but first we're going to meet the rebels. We'll need their help.

DARRYN

The who?

AMARISA

Toland told me about rebels hidden in the forest. Up ahead, there's a fork in the road, we go to the -

DARRYN

I don't know anything about rebels, but I do know sword quests. I'll get us there.

AMARISA

But they can help us. They're -

DARRYN

How many quests have you been on?

Amarisa does some quick math in her head.

AMARISA

Including this one? One.

DARRYN

One? What have you been doing with your life?

AMARISA

What have I been doing with my life? You're the one who spends everyday in a drunk stupor.

DARRYN

Hey, you came to me all right?

AMARISA

I'm a teenager. I do dumb things.

DARRYN

Well, we're together now. We should make the best of it. Drink?

He holds the flask to her. Amarisa gives him a look.

AMARISA

Did you really do all that stuff I read about?

DARRYN

Did you ever read about the time -

AMARISA

Did the Hammer really kill you?

DARRYN

You ask a lot of questions.

AMARISA

I'm inquisitive. Eurylochus wrote, "Don't go through life unsure. If you don't know something-

DARRYN

Have you ever had a thought that you didn't read in a book first?

AMARISA

Just because you've never read a book doesn't mean -

DARRYN

I don't need to read books. I write books, and those books are called *My Life*. That little fantasy world you live in? It's not gonna help you out here. This is the real world. You'll learn.

AMARISA

I've already learned plenty.

DARRYN

Hey. What's this?

They've arrived at a FORK IN THE ROAD. Down the RIGHT: Dark. Creepy. And on the LEFT: Also, dark and creepy.

AMARISA

I was literally just telling you about this. Come on - we go right.

DARRYN

What the? Why are they both creepy?

AMARISA

Because The Hammer that's why. C'mon, Toland said we go right.

DARRYN

And Toland's dead ok? You wanna be dead? Take his advice. Me? I'm going this way.

Darryn heads towards the path on the left. He yells back.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

Or maybe just read a book about it!  
*Path Choosing for Rookies!*

Amarisa starts the other way, then...

AMARISA

Agh! This is a bad idea.

She rides ahead, taking the left path towards Darryn.

EXT. MUDDY ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Darryn rides smugly.

DARRYN

See? I told you. Experience.

UP AHEAD, two HAMMER SOLDIERS have stopped a hooded figure.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

C'mon. Let's get off the road.

Darryn heads into the forest.

AMARISA

Where are you going?

DARRYN

Those are The Hammer's soldiers. They're probably looking for you.

AMARISA

But they're bullying that guy.

DARRYN

It's a rough world sweetheart, and you're not paying me to rescue idiots who travel out here alone.

AMARISA

I'm not paying you at all.

DARRYN

All the more reason for me not to get involved.

AMARISA

I'm going to help him.

Amarisa rides ahead.

DARRYN

If you go up there, I'm not saving you! I mean it! You're on your own!

He sighs and shakes his head.

DARRYN (CONT'D)

I could be in a bar, drunk right now. I mean, more drunk.

EXT. MUDDY ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Two black-armored HAMMER SOLDIERS, MITCH and EDDY, loom over a female HOODED TRAVELER (40s). She carries a walking stick.

HAMMER SOLDIER MITCH

Look, if you don't tell us where the girl is, then we have to take you in to The Hammer.

HAMMER SOLDIER EDDY

I mean, do you want to get your head splattered? That's a lot of death for you and a lot of paperwork for us.

HOODED TRAVELER

Why would I know anything about a girl. I'm just a traveler who is -

AMARISA (O.S.)

Hey! Leave him alone!

HOODED TRAVELER

Him?