

## 11 of 12

### Scene 1

#### Alaunus

Nevar begins walking up the beach and is confronted by 2 of Lyre's warriors. They attack him, Nevar manages to evade them to a point but soon one gets behind him and trips him to the ground. Before they can lay a finishing blow they are frozen in place by purple energy. Nevar gets up, a tad confused about it all, but quickly snaps their necks before walking away into the forest.

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Raven fires his remaining 2 arrows, but the first one misses and the second only hits one of the 4 descending explosive orbs.

<Raven>: I need a different approach (he flies into the trees, waiting for a good shot, he throws the bow and it spins bursting the final orbs before they pose a threat to the warriors, the bow hits a tree but it's destroyed in the process, Raven lands back with the warriors but more of Lyre's demons approach)

Raven: Warriors! (The warriors awaken) follow the map, I'll distract the demons! (He takes a piece of the bow that was lodged in a tree and is on fire and whacks one of the demons with it, burning the cloak briefly, the demons approach Raven as the warriors make their escape)

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#### Demon square

Raven leads the demons into demon square, they try and reach out but he weaves, backing away until he steps onto the centre square

Wisdom Tree: Will this prove yourself wise, or tear you apart? An Octopus, in total, has 3 hearts, true or false? (As Raven avoids attacks, one of the demons stands on the false path and is stopped in his tracks, Raven stands on the true path) The answer is true (the demon attacks but Raven steps forward and the demon steps onto the path) Go, I will hold them at bay (Raven transforms and flies away as the demons step forward)

# Raven

## THE VANQUISHED

### Scene 2

2 hours later

Lyre sees the warriors heading towards a dark portion of the forest, she heads out onto the balcony points her staff towards the forest, a red burst emanates from her staff and a giant orb floats over the forest, shining brightly upon it.

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### **Dark Path**

Raven catches up with the warriors

Raven: Those demons are no longer a threat, but the demons in this forest are another thing entirely. Lyre has ensured our only way through is blindfolded (the warriors look confused) the Dark Path is a challenge located here, it'll provide a safe path until you get clear of the orb. The demons will not touch you if you stay on the path, but stray from it, or follow a false lead, marked by a hanging skull and the demons will attack. I will await you at the path's end. Good luck, young warriors.

After a brief discussion, it's decided that Kanem and Pale will head as a pair first, Valtho and Hamras second and Lerdan on his own last. Blindfolded, Kanem and Pale hold tightly on the vines and begin following them into the forest

Both keep at a decent pace, soon reaching a tree, they feel their way around it and manage to continue unhindered. Pale is slightly ahead of Kanem but when he reaches the second tree he almost follows a false lead, thankfully he turns back at the feel of the skull.

With this mistake Kanem passes him, but both remain on the safe path as they approach the third tree, neither of them make a mistake and soon they both reach the end of the woodland, where Raven waits for them

Raven: You can remove your blindfolds, well done

Valtho and Hamras head into the forest second. Valtho moves at speed whilst Hamras takes it slowly. Valtho reaches the first tree, and whilst he tries to feel around it, he takes a false path, he feels the skull and quickly returns as Hamras reaches the first tree.

Valtho heads on the path to the second tree whilst Hamras carefully ensures that he's on the correct path before moving forward. Valtho reaches the second tree and is able to avoid any false paths. Hamras arrives and also manages to do this.

Valtho reaches the third tree and is about to take a false path but he returns to the tree and takes the correct path as Hamras approaches the third tree. Hamras also takes the correct path and joins Raven at the forest

Lerdan takes hold of the vines and move forward into the forest, he reaches the first tree but quickly takes hold of a false path. He manages to miss the skulls around him and a demon comes to claim him.

Raven: (Sighs) another warrior lost. But there are many more lives at stake if we cannot get to the city. Come, we must move quickly (he leads the warriors on, as they move on a Lyrebird watches from overhead, as they move, the bird flies after them)

Valtho: Losing Lerdan is a really cruel blow to start the day on, but it was a very difficult challenge and I guess we were bound to lose someone. Lerdan must have rushed because I nearly had the same thing happen to me when I took the wrong vine. Hopefully we can at least go through the rest of the day unscathed

Pale: That was perhaps one of the scariest moments on the quest so far especially as I do NOT like being blindfolded whilst in the woods, there was one time I did go down a false route but I did managed to feel the skull before continuing on my way and since then I was determined not to make any more mistakes. Given that Lerdan had become a bit distant from us ever since he was brought back, I wasn't surprised he was taken but it was quite gutting really given he was one of the strongest warriors on the quest.

Hamras: Losing Lerdan in this challenge was like a jab to the side because he was probably our strongest warrior after Valtho, so now we have to make up for what we've lost by sharpening our attributes.

Kanem: I am surprised I completed the challenge and I am upset that Lerdan is gone. Hopefully the rest of us can continue to do well.

### **Enchanted Stream**

Lyre lands and transforms just out of view

Lyre: The Enchanted Stream (she points her staff at the challenge and a set of the pieces disappear, she smiles)

## Raven and the warriors approach

Raven: Of course, the Enchanted Stream. Lyre has ensured we travel a most punishing route. Warriors, this stream may appear harmless, but it's infected with deadly mists, the bridge you see in pieces before you is your only way to safety, but only one of you can cross at a time.

The warriors quickly observe the pieces of the bridge and are quickly discussing order, Pale and Valtho are both keen to go first. After much time wasted, Valtho goes first, Valtho finds the first piece of the bridge and takes it to put it down, the others observe to try and find the right pieces of the bridge to use when they build their bridge. Valtho gets a second piece down soon after

Valtho returns to grab the third piece, he sees the pattern left from the last piece and finds the one that fits next. Repeating that through, he soon has the fourth and 5<sup>th</sup> pieces in place, he races across the bridge.

Lyre from the shadows points her staff at the bridge, the bridge disassembles behind him, leaving the pieces back at the start to be assembled anew.

Hamras steps up next, trying to replicate the order Valtho placed his pieces down in, but it disheartened to find the patterns of the bridge have changed. He finds the piece doesn't fit and runs to find another one

Hamras soon has the first piece down but is weary that time is against him. It takes him another couple of attempts to put the second piece down, but the third, fourth and fifth go in easily, he crosses the bridge. Lyre points her staff at the bridge and it disassembles for the other two

Pale steps up next and grabs a piece as the mist continues to build, after initially picking up the wrong first piece, Pale does manage to get the right one in. He continues to place them down, as the mists get close

Pale gets the third piece of the bridge in place and runs back for his penultimate one. Kanem is noticeably worried as the mists continue to build. Pale puts in his fourth and quickly follows up with his fifth piece and makes it across to safety. Lyre points her staff at the bridge, and it disassembles again for Kanem

Kanem readies the first piece of the bridge and places it down, she runs quickly back to get her second piece but as she places it down the mists catch up with her and claim her.

Lyre: (Smiling) another one down (her staff glows, she transforms and takes off)

Raven: We must move quickly, Lyre could still have more traps awaiting us (he leads them on)

Valtho: I feel incredibly guilty about the loss of Kanem because I essentially feel like it was my fault. We had a lot of good ideas but weren't able to formulate them into a coherent strategy. Kanem would have easily been the quickest to finish the bridge, so if we'd just helped her a little more there is no way she would have failed. Once again, I am left questioning our teamwork, particularly with Pale and I because it has been a couple of times now when we haven't been able to bring our ideas together in a cohesive plan. It's a dangerous pattern and with only three of us left we really need to get through the rest of the day.

Pale: Kanem's elimination easily could have been prevented... And to be very honest it was all my fault. In an attempt to get my point across, I ended up losing my temper and we were never united as a team after that. I know that Valtho is certainly angry at me right now, but at the moment I don't care what he thinks as I know we have to move on if we are to move further in the quest to destroy Lyre when the time comes.

Hamras: We really didn't have to lose Kanem in this challenge, because Pale was keen on going first - presumably preferring his safety along rather than risking it for safety for the whole team. I'm also annoyed that I didn't help as much as I could have done to avoid this loss.

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Lyre lands back at the castle and answers her call, summoning a hologram of Owlman

Owlman: The Grand Master wants an update

Lyre: Then he can ask me himself

Owlman: He's currently busy. I heard 2 of your warriors were found dead on the beach

Lyre: How did you...

Owlman: Red Archer landed an hour ago, first thing he reported to me. Don't worry, he's already tracking the warriors

Lyre: Let us hope he's more successful than his predecessor (she drops the call)

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The river

### **The Raft**

Raven: It seems that Lyre believes we must walk to the city from here. But whilst in flight I've secretly been carrying resources from Raft Race, I could find no other place for them that Lyre couldn't see, but now they are here, you can use the raft to carry yourselves down river to a riverbank near the city.

Remembering the composition from raft Race, Hamras, Pale and Valtho begin placing logs into the structure. Valtho is clearly the fastest of the 3 doing this and he and Pale begin taking multiple logs at once.

Hamras takes one log at a time and slots it into the structure. Quickly the raft nears completion. Pale checks over the structure for any faults before locking the structure in place. They grab oars and push the raft into the water.

Hamras and Pale attempt to steer the craft whilst Valtho acts to navigate, after a while, the warriors are far enough away from the back for the current to pull them downstream. Pale and Hamras manage to straighten the raft as the current pushes them forward.

With their destination in sight, Valtho looks for somewhere for them to land. He guides the other 2 towards the bank, eventually they get close enough and in slow enough current to jump to land as the raft continues down the river.

Hamras: This was a relatively easy task to complete, because we have done it already - when my team won a hearty breakfast. We're so close to the city now I can almost smell it - ok maybe not smell it but you get the point.

Pale: Now that we are close to the city I am now determined to survive this quest with the others, I will not let anyone else fall on our path to defeat Lyre and given we have cleared that last challenge with ease, I am more than ready for what lies ahead.

Valtho: Well that challenge went well given that there was only one commanding voice and that has to be our strategy from now on. We are getting close to where we need to be as a team, but I'm sure Lyre has more tricks up her sleeve. I hope I'm ready.

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Lyre's staff starts glowing again, Lyre projects the hologram

Red Archer: They're getting close to the city, but I'm close too

Lyre: How did you get ahead?

Red Archer: They didn't think to bring grappling equipment. Their loss. Though I kept having to stop with all the damn challenges. Seriously with the Riddle Bridge?

Lyre: Do you have them in sight?

Red Archer: 3 of them, no sign of the bird

Lyre: Deal with them, I'll find Raven (she transforms and flies away)

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Lyre finds Raven and they begin chasing each other in the air, Raven is clearly the faster of the two, they soon find a clearing, both land and transform.

Raven: Well? (Lyre points her staff at Raven) you have me at your mercy, what now?

Lyre: I offer you one chance, take your warriors and leave the Island

Raven: (Laughs) and leave it in your hands?

Lyre: I'll take care of the people

Raven: The people still trapped (he smiles) I know how to deactivate the shield, you need that knowledge. (Lyre raises her staff and vine grab Raven)

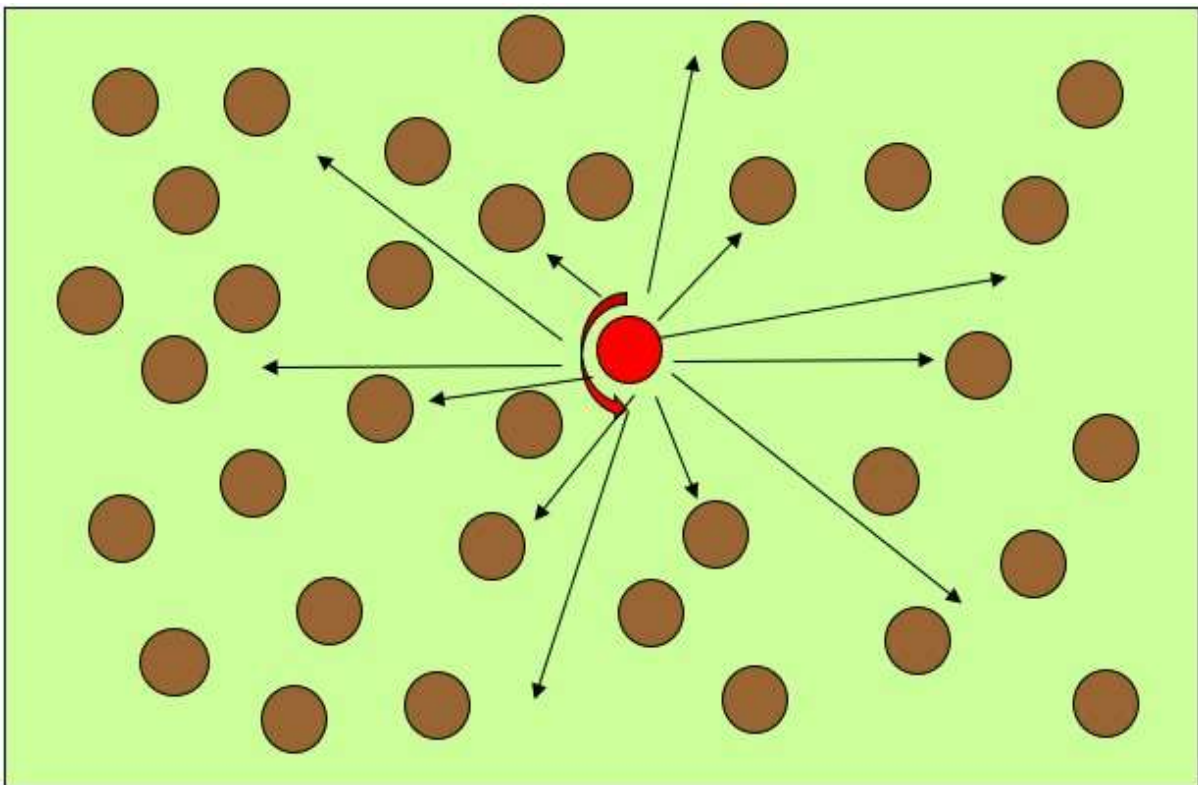
Lyre: I'll tear you apart piece by piece if you don't... (Tears fall down her eyes) I can't... (She's soon incapacitated by purple energy) what? (The vines around Raven turn to dust)

Raven: Curious (he punches Lyre unconscious, he transforms and flies away)

### Red Archer

The warriors head into the woods, but are soon stopped in their tracks by a Red Arrow

Red Archer: I've been waiting



#### Key

**Red circle: Red Archer**

**The warriors are at the bottom part of the map**

The warriors quickly take cover behind a tree. Red Archer fires a couple of arrows in their general direction, it hits the tree they're covering behind but doesn't penetrate it. Unable to hear their screams he begins circling, firing arrows as he does so.

When they see that Red Archer is no longer facing them, they move in with Valtho heading to the right, and Hamras and Pale heading to the left. They watch as he makes his rotations and begin counting the seconds it takes for him to make a full rotation

Confident having done this twice, Valtho moves to the tree nearest him. Hamras and Pale make the same count, after which, and sure that his back is turned, Hamras moves to his

cover and to the right. When his back is turned to Valtho, Valtho moves forward and to the left to another tree cover.

Hamras takes a deep breath as the Archer passes him, firing arrows in the path his about to cross, he heads forward and slightly to the left to take cover behind a tree there, Pale moves to where Hamras was previously. As the Red Archer passes in Valtho's direction, he fires an explosive arrow. The arrow hits the tree in front and to the right of him.

Valtho hears the sound and moves quickly forward and to the left as the arrow explodes and destroys the tree. Pale moves closer to Hamras as the Red Archer fires an arrow into the tree that Valtho was behind. To his relief it isn't explosive. Hamras moves to the tree to the left.

When the Red Archer is facing the other way, Valtho moves forward and slightly to the right, to the tree closest to the Red Archer. As the Red Archer turns towards him, Hamras moves forward and to the left and Pale heads to the left to where Hamras was previously.

The Red Archer fires an arrow close to where Valtho is, he watches from the left side of the tree as the Red Archer turns his back. He moves in stealthily and grabs him in a choke hold. Red Archer soon drops his bow but struggles Valtho off. Raven swoops in and kicks him in the face, knocking him out.

Raven: It seems another of Lyre's enforcers is defeated. Well done warriors. Lyre is for now incapacitated, but there's no telling how long it'll last. We must move quickly. Come, the shield is close (he leads the warriors away)

Valtho: This was definitely the toughest foe Lyre has put in our path, but luckily, we beat him this time. I'm really pleased that my strategic plan worked in this scenario and its proven to be a strength of mine in the quest so far. I'm confident that if we face another similar challenge later on we can pull through together if we take our time to plan our moves like we did against the Red Archer.

Hamras: The Archer was definitely a tough nut to crack, and to be honest we have to thank Valtho for our victory against him. Who cares if he says he's a bad leader - because he's lead us this far and we're almost at the end.

Pale: I know for a fact that those enemies are a lot stronger than they were to begin with, Red Archer could have easily taken us out if we were not careful and to be fair it was thanks to Valtho we came out of this challenge unscathed. I knew my stealth was lacking so all I had to do was keep quiet and follow Hamras' instructions so I would not get caught. I am more than satisfied we have taken out another one of Lyre's forces and with each enemy defeated I am growing in my confidence. I feel we can defeat Lyre if we can keep planning ahead.



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Lyre awakens and finds her staff glowing again, she summons  
Grand Master: I've been calling for 5 minutes, why the hold up?  
Lyre: My apologies, Owlman wanted to get his words in  
Grand Master: I'm sure he did... We've just lost contact with Red Archer. Have you got through the shield?  
Lyre: (Sigh) no, and Raven is approaching it (The Grand Master smiles) you're thinking I should allow them to approach and do the work for me  
Grand Master: Yes, ready your forces, I'll see about getting you some additional help. (He disappears, Lyre smiles as she takes off back towards the castle)  
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Nevar's Palace ruins  
Nevar sees the ruins of the palace, and flashes back to himself setting up fake demons with explosives, that ultimately destroyed the palace. He sees purple energy glowing in the rubble, he begins digging through the rubble and finds his staff of power. He manages to pull it out of the rubble and begins laughing  
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### **The Shield Wall**

The warriors approach the dome surrounding the city

Raven: Warriors, though deactivating this forcefield is playing into Lyre's hands, we must do so anyway. This shield was supposed to protect people, but after 10 days, it's become a prison, a prison with dwindling resources. There are 2 generators, one on each side of the city. They're well hidden, but there is a key, the Raven's call. The explosives we recovered earlier must now be used to destroy the generators. But we must be prepared, Lyre will most certainly be sending her warriors to take advantage.

Raven uses the Raven's call to uncloak the first generator. It's decided that Pale will arm the charge on it whilst Valtho protects him. Raven turns into a Raven and flies towards the other generator, with Hamras following.

Raven and Hamras reach the site of the other generator, Raven uses his call to uncloak it also. He begins setting the charge, leaving Hamras to defend him from attack. Both warriors have bo-staffs to help. 3 of Lyre's warriors approach each of them.

Knowing that he was overwhelmed by them in their last confrontation, Valtho and Hamras both rely on blocks and defensive manoeuvres to avoid being hurt, but as some of them attempt to attack Pale and Raven, they know they must work on the offensive in order to win here.

Valtho grabs the bo-staff and swings it at the warriors, they duck but Valtho swings it lower, tripping them up. Hamras tries the same technique but only one of the warriors trips, one gets behind him and begins throwing quick jabs at his left side, weakening him.

Hamras elbows the warrior jabbing him in the side with his left arm, winding her, he pushes her forward, and deliver a blow to her head with the staff, she is knocked out by this. The warriors attacking Valtho and Pale recover. Valtho runs and jump kicks one of the warriors, whilst swinging his staff to hit the other two from behind, they're all knocked to the ground once more. Valtho lands a few blows on the warrior he kicked, ensuring that he's knocked out as the other two recover.

Pale and Raven soon give the word that the explosives have been set, knowing what this means, the remaining warriors withdraw. They drag the warriors they knocked out away as the generators explode, and the shield dome falls.

Pale: I knew for a fact that I was better off setting the fuses rather than to combat the enemies as detonating the shield dome would have been impossible if I didn't assist Raven with arming the explosives. My task was pretty easy but I knew I had to be quick as a warrior's stamina could not last forever and there was a bit of pressure on me given a warrior could have attacked me at any moment. I was still quite confident that as a team we would get the job done of destroying the dome and that has really paid off as we had little problems on this task.

Hamras: I'm definitely not the best when it comes to hand to hand combat, and that basically showed during the challenge - I'm much more used to fighting with either some form of defence or cover - and a Bo Staff isn't either of those.

Valtho: This challenge was tough because I had to actually physically engage with our enemies, but in the end it wasn't too taxing for Hamras and I. Pale and Raven were also quick with the charges and that definitely helped us.

### **The Search**

The warriors enter the city with Raven

Raven: Warriors, I'm going to bring the warriors we knocked out to the Academy, perhaps it's worth investigating the city, and seeing if anything has happened whilst the dome has been up.

As Raven takes the captives to the Warrior Academy, the others split up and begin searching for people. Valtho comes across a young woman with a baby and asks what's been happening.

Freya: You shouldn't have dropped the shield, we're all gonna die!

She holds her baby tightly until he begins crying, she runs off, trying to calm him down.  
Hamras comes across an elderly man. He asks what he thinks Lyre wants

Lucas: I think Lyre wants control of the city, she's been trying to send her forces to attack

Hamras realises he knew nothing he wasn't already aware of and tries to find someone else.  
Pale sees a purple glowing in the distance, he follows it into a small shop where a scruffy elderly lady in a dark purple cloak resides

Haggar: Shop's closed! Go away

Pale refuses to leave, asking repeatedly what she knows. She only relents when he tells her he's working with Raven.

Haggar: Not that fake one, I hope. She's a nasty piece of work.

Pale asks what the glowing was, she shows him her levitating objects with her mind.

Haggar: Magic returned to Alaunus... I've been waiting 50 years for it to happen. My names Haggar, I've been hiding here for years.

She shows him an eye and passes her hand over it. Valtho and Hamras enter the shop too.  
They see Lyre gathering her warriors

Haggar: Lyre is preparing to mount a massive assault on the city, you need to get everyone out before the battle begins

Before they can further ask who she is, she, along with her all-seeing eye disappears.  
Leaving only an echo

Haggar: Page 692

Valtho: I'm very worried about what happens next. Lyre clearly has the ability to hurt all these people that we've just left out in the open so we'll have to come up with a strategy to get them out of here quickly! I can't believe that the entire mission has boiled down to us reading a page in a random book... but if that's what we have to do we'll give it our best shot!

Pale: All I can say is that this quest has now become a war against Lyre, she doesn't care about the safety of the people that were trapped in the dome all she cares about is world domination and she will not stop until she gets what she wants. At first Haggar was quite rude to me but I was more than determined to get info out of her and given my impatience it was quite easy for me to do just that. My mind still lingers about that page 692 as I still don't really know

what this is about, but one thing I am sure about is that this isn't just for my revenge anymore, this is actually a job to save the world which makes all of us more determined than usual to bring Lyre to her deathbed.

Hamras: Haggar was certainly an... intriguing individual. Her words definitely will come into some sort of use later in the quest but at this point we must deal with the information that we have and use it to our advantage.

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Warrior Academy

The warriors tell Raven what they heard from Haggar

Raven: Haggar? It's been a long time since I heard that name. We must be on guard.