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#### Previously

The tides are turning; Queen Mother Ayeleth and her warriors have successfully stolen the Dragon's Heart, the source of eternal flame. Now it resides in the Royal Palace, but is it safe from Nevar? Meanwhile Raven and his warriors act quickly to prevent another victim falling to Dominor, can they make it to him in time?

#### Scene 1

Nevar's Castle, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 00:00 BST

Nevar prepares his demon army, Vandal Savage teleports onto the scene, the demons prepare to attack

Nevar: Don't bother, we couldn't kill him, he's immortal (the demons stand down)

Vandal: The masters have need of you once again

Nevar: You left me to rot in jail again, after I was captured by Raven in February, you seriously think I'm gonna help you after that?

Vandal: You will not find what you're looking for in the Museum. Queen Erina has it in her Palace and to attack there you will need more than just your demon armies.

Nevar: What do you want?

Vandal: You know of Dominor?

Nevar: Yes, he attacked the palace earlier this year.

Vandal: We have long suspected he may become a threat; we need you to keep a close eye on him and put him down if it needs to be done. Several of my recent operatives have received invitations to the fall of Alaunus by days end. (Hotstreak and Magpie step through the portal)

Nevar: And who are these two?

Vandal: Francis Stone

Hotstreak: That's Hotstreak, ya jerk

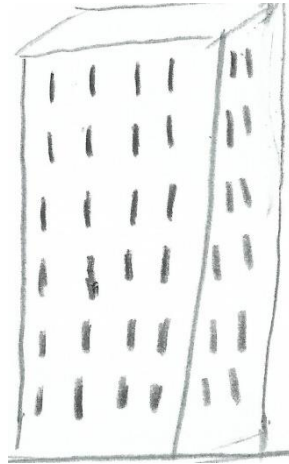
Vandal: A very recent initiate to our cause. He's a pyrokinetic, might be able to syphon Raven's phoenix powers and Margaret Pye, aka Magpie. She's a skilled fighter, but requires a proper motivation (he injects Magpie with a mind control chemical) we'll be sending more people in due course, but for now, these two will be sufficient.

Nevar: We'll see

# *Raven: The Reckoning*

## Scene 2

Hotel Overly Complex, London, 00:35 BST



*The Hotel*

Raven: Ask at reception where Jennifer Collins is located, I will try and find her from the skies. Begin

The warriors enter the Hotel called Overly Complex. They ask at reception where their newest target, Jennifer Collins, an arms dealer who had supplied Dominor's forces with various weapons, the receptionist reveals she is in room 12 on the 147<sup>th</sup> floor. But being the Overly Complex, she reveals the confusing use of the elevators in this hotel

3 elevators are available: 1 which goes to only even floors, 1 which goes to only odd floors and one which goes to only prime numbered floors, the stairs are closed for cleaning so the warriors must use the elevators to get to the 147<sup>th</sup> floor. The warriors discuss their strategies for getting to the floor, noting that only one of the elevators stops at their current floor.

Ardem suggests that the elevator before them is the one that goes only to the odd numbered floors and that it would lead them straight there, however, they soon discover the level they are on is level 0 and that the elevator in front of them is the elevator that only goes to even numbered floors, clearly they would need to use multiple elevators to get to their target floor.

After some discussion the warriors go with a strategy accumulated from the combined efforts of Ardem, Jocal and Hagal. They enter the elevator and take it to the next stop, the second floor; they exit the elevator and find another elevator next to them, the elevator that goes only the prime-numbered floors; they get inside this elevator

After a long journey up in the elevator, the warriors reach the 149<sup>th</sup> floor, they exit the elevator and call the elevator that goes only to the odd-numbered floors, after the elevator arrives they enter it and head down to the 147<sup>th</sup> floor, they quickly exit the elevator and find their way to room 12, Raven arrives and breaks the door down but they find that they were too late, Jennifer was already dead.

Raven: We're too late again. Help me search the room; Dominor tends to leave clues (the warriors and Raven search the room but all come up empty handed) nothing. Come warriors, let us return to Alanus. There's nothing more we can do here.

Jocal: I am worried that Dominor might win against the warriors mainly because of his strength, which really worries me

Hagal: I'm definitely afraid that Dominor might be one step ahead because of the scheme he is trying to hide

### Scene 3

Royal Palace, 01:24 BST

Ayeleth: I see something troubles you, Erina

Erina: Nevar is gathering his forces

Ayeleth: You think he knows we have the relic?

Erina: I cannot tell, the eye sees all but it hears little. I hope Raven returns soon, with his aide we might have a chance of holding Nevar's forces back

Ayeleth: You have little faith in the warriors, despite the fact that warriors saved your life not a year ago.

Erina: Perhaps, but I just can't shake the feeling that something terrible is about to happen. (A guard rushes towards them)

Guard: We've got demons approaching from the North and south sides

Ayeleth: I will prepare the warriors in the North tower then join you at the south. Demons aren't known for their speed (she runs off)

Erina: Good luck



*Man the catapults*

North Tower

Ayeleth: We have demons approaching warriors; their numbers are too great to fight directly. Our best option is to thin their ranks from here. Use this catapult and these missiles; a direct strike to any demon will dispatch them. I will help Erina fend them off from the south side.

With the news of Nevar's forces being in the vicinity, the guards take to their preferred weapon; when the warriors reach the defence post they find a solitary catapult, with 20 shots available, they quickly decide as Cosni has the greatest combined strength and accuracy that he will be the one doing the shooting, with the other warriors assisting.

Netea takes on the role of helping Cosni guide the missiles towards their target, and with the first missile loaded they fire and to their surprise they manage to hit one of the demons, immediately dispatching it, however their luck doesn't hold out as their next 4 shots all fail to hit their mark, but with the encouragement of Narex, Fyraf and Ayren, another demon is dispatched with their 6<sup>th</sup> shot

After their 7<sup>th</sup> shot fails to hit its target, Netea becomes more vocal in his efforts to help the shots hit their targets, as a result of Netea and Cosni's combined efforts, the 8<sup>th</sup> shot dispatches another demon but more bad luck ensues as the next 3 shots all manage to miss their mark. Shot number 12 however manages to dispatch a 4<sup>th</sup> demon

Nevar's ranks are weakening but with limited shots remaining, Cosni realises that he must make every shot count. This mentality doesn't start well as the 13<sup>th</sup> shot misses the demons, but he soon makes up for it by dispatching a 5<sup>th</sup> demon with his next shot; as the demons close in on the castle the shots begin to get easier, and within the next 2 shots another demon is dispatched

With only 4 missiles remaining, Netea gives his all to help Cosni aim true and with the demons getting ever closer the tactics seem to be paying off. Each of the remaining shots strike a demon, giving them 9 demons dispatched overall

Aryen: I wasn't too bothered that I didn't get to do much here; I knew to take a step back, and let the warriors with better skills in this area take this one up. Fyraf seemed pretty agitated though.

Fyraf: I know I wasn't suited to this challenge but after they took out a load of demons, I really felt like I wanted to take a few out myself; I was really tense, and couldn't stand still. I hope no-one noticed.

Narex: I think even though I didn't do much, I was encouraging and Netea and Cosni needed that support, so I think I utilised another side of my skills here.

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South tower

Erina and 5 guards are attacking demons using their staffs of power, each strike dispatches a demon, Ayeleth raises her hand and lightning fires from her fingertips to dispatch 5 demons in one shot. A massive fireball strikes the tower and two of the guards are sent flying backwards, the blow to the head from the impact kills them. Magpie climbs the tower walls and stealthily takes out the other three guards. Hotstreak fires at Ayeleth, but Ayeleth easily blocks his attack, Erina fires at Magpie but Magpie evades, she kicks Erina, knocking her down, Ayeleth notices this and extends her shield to surround both of them, the demons arrive at the palace doors and begin to break it down.

Ayeleth: We need to regroup in the palace.

#### Scene 4

Forest of Dawn time, 02:00 BST



#### *Sneak attack*

Raven and his warriors step through the portal, and spot demons still approaching the North Tower, including Nevar

Raven: Nevar. He must be attacking the palace; demons are deadly if they touch you, but they can be knocked out with simple sleep holds. Try and hold them here while I see if the Palace is still standing (he flies away)

The warriors hide behind the trees, so they are not seen by the demons, or Nevar himself. Each of them wait behind their trees for a moment to strike, Jocal is the first to do so, getting a demon in a choking hold and dispatching him without being seen, she quickly returns to cover. 5 more demons remain to be dispatched, all under the watchful eye of Nevar

The warriors maintain their cover behind the trees, as the demons begin to progress towards the Royal Palace. The warriors close in on the demons and Onion is the next one to strike; he chokes the demon until it is dispatched. Nevar turns but before he sees Onion, Onion is back behind a tree, waiting for a moment to strike again

Nevar looks away once again, and Vansem attempts to strike, but he makes a single misstep, and before anyone has time to react Nevar blasts Vansem with his staff, ending his quest forever. Unnerved and upset by this loss, the other warriors maintain their cover for a few moments as Nevar and his demons progress toward the palace

Hagal is the first to make a move after the loss and manages to dispatch another demon, leaving only 3 more demons around Nevar's watch, Nevar does not notice the demon's demise and continues his progress towards the palace. Ardem summons her courage and makes her move, managing to dispatch a third demon

2 more demons remain within their reach; Jocal manages to once again summon the courage to dispatch 1 of the remaining demons and return to cover before Nevar sees him. Onion waits patiently for the right moment to dispatch the final demon. When the moment is right, Onion strikes and dispatches the final demon. Only Nevar remains...

Nevar turns his gaze onto the warriors and prepares to fire at them

Raven: Nevar! (Nevar turns to see Raven having reverted to human form, they exchange staff blasts but Raven fires a fireball, knocking Nevar to the ground) this is your only chance Nevar, end this attack!

Nevar: No (he punches Raven with each fist and throws him off, Nevar rises to his feet, smiling underneath his mask)

Raven: Nevar must be taking those steroids again (Nevar runs away) A cowardly retreat. We have to move, the demons continue their assault on the castle from the south side and they have help. Come, we must move quickly (Raven leads them toward the castle)

Jocal: I am pleased that the demons have been dispatched however, I am sad that Vansem is gone mainly because he was a good warrior but it is still a mission

Hagal: I knew my strength was the main asset in the challenge as dispatching the demons was a huge relief, but seeing that Nevar is still there, there is still plenty to get done.

### Scene 5

The Royal Palace 02:35 BST



### *The Siege*

The warriors return to the palace throne room to discover that many of the guards have been dispatched by Hotstreak and Magpie. As the final ones fall, demons enter the castle; the warriors rush into action, quickly focusing their efforts on the demons whilst also dodging the occasional attacks from Hotstreak and Magpie

Ayren kicks a demon in the head, dispatching it then manages to dodge another fireball thrown by Hotstreak. Ayren, Netea and Narex all try and use their superior agility against Hotstreak but as they prepare to make their move against him, he sets himself on fire, forcing them to back away. As they get far enough back, he turns off his flames, allowing Cosni to sneak in from behind and knock him out with a choking hold.

As Fyraf dispatches 2 demons at once by throwing them into each other, he becomes the target of Magpie. He ducks, barely able to dodge her fast attacks, Ayren uses this to her advantage and kicks Magpie in the side, knocking her to the ground, but Magpie quickly recovers from the attack and prepares to attack Ayren.

Narex jump kicks and dispatches one of the few remaining demons; Netea tries to attack Magpie as she occupies herself with Ayren but Magpie catches her foot and throws her into Ayren, knocking them both down to the ground. Cosni tries the same choke hold that knocked out Hotstreak but Magpie manages to contort her way out of it

Ayren recovers from the fall and resumes his efforts against Magpie. Now alone, without any demon support, Magpie climbs the wall and prepares an aerial attack on Netea, who is still recovering from her fall. Fyraf manages to catch her foot however and uses his advantage to throw her into the wall, knocking her unconscious.

Ayren: I've managed to assist in helping defeat a couple of super-villains and it feels great knowing we have that kind of power, although I've learned from this that I won't always have time to strategize and sometimes I have to rely on my team to help each other out, and not require pre-planning. I've learned that to be able to overcome obstacles like these requires the utmost trust in my team and for me to work with them in synchronisation.

Fyraf: Those two went down, it wasn't an easy feat, but we did it and now we're moving on. I've taken from this that it requires a great balance of different skills within your team to succeed and that's what it'll take to defeat super-villains in the future.

Narex: The lessons I have learned here are that we should really expect the unexpected: for example Hotstreak setting himself on fire. I think we should all use our perception and look at the enemy instead of simply attacking, so that we can see what they're going to do next.

Erina and Ayeleth arrive and having defeated the remaining demons attacking from the south side, Erina sees Hotstreak and Magpie unconscious

Erina: It appears I have underestimated the valour of the warriors once again well done.

Ayeleth: What should we do with them? (Hotstreak and Magpie are teleported away, another demon arrives from the North side, but is quickly dispatched by Raven, Erina smiles on his arrival with his warriors)

Raven: Dominor left no more clues behind; I believe he has taken his final victim (Dominor's face appears on the walls)

Dominator: Not quite

Raven: What sorcery is this?

Dominator: Congratulations, warriors, on making it this far. Those of you who have been following me all night know I have been busy eliminating those connected to my past, only 2 remain (a beam appears on Erina's chest, and a sniper above fires, Erina is killed)

Raven: ERINA! (Raven quickly takes down the sniper as Ayeleth looks angrily at the scene, she transports herself to where she tracked Dominor to be, the image projection of Dominor's layer is still on the wall, so Raven and the warriors can see what is happening)

Dominator: 1 left (Dominator chucks a tub of acid into Ayeleth's face, stopping her from having the focus to cast spells, he then strikes a sword through her chest, killing her) goodbye Mother

Raven: MONSTER!

Dominator: To those of you who embarked on my fallen mother's foolish quest for the Dragon's Heart, you are all fools, you fell for the oldest trick in the book. The Dragon's Heart you hold is a fake, the real one has been mine for several months; now I shall unleash its power and Alaunus shall be reborn in fire. *Princeps flamma* (the Dragon's heart begins to glow) *protegat* (the eternal flame is unleashed upon Alaunus, burning everything that crosses its path, turning anyone that stood in its way to ash, except Dominor, who is protected by his spell) it's only a matter of time before the flame reaches you, we will not see each other again (the flame crosses lakes and rivers, drying them to nothing, but it stops when it reaches the Forest of Dawn time, the fire approaches the Royal Palace, the remaining palace guards create a shield with their staffs but the fire destroys the shield and kills the guards)



Raven: Warriors, get behind me (his eyes glow with fire and he uses his pyrokinesis to absorb the remainder of the flame, once the flame is gone, he falls to his knees and soon passes out)

Ayren: Raven? (They are all hit by sleeping darts and fall unconscious as Dominor enters the palace)

#### Next time on Raven: The Reckoning

The warriors awaken alone in a new world; can they survive the odds against them?

To do so they will need their wits, their strength, their stamina and stealth, only then will they have a chance of survival

The characters in this story are entirely fictitious so don't try copying the challenges yourself