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Scene 1

Fortress of Solitude

Raven awakens, with notable scarring near his left eye

<Raven>: That monster needs to be stopped, but without my staff, I am powerless against him. I know someone is sending warriors to help me, I hope they hurry (we see a spaceship hovering above the fortress as 10 metallic soldiers teleport into the fortress)



Scene 2

Arctic circle

Raven leads her warriors across a bridge forged by her reality gem, as they step off, the bridge fades to dust

Raven: Valtho, Lerdan, Pale, Hamras, Etony. You have conquered the challenges, proving yourselves to be true warriors, but to rescue Raven, you must think outside the confines of what you've seen before, the route we take is deadly. The amulets offer you some protection from the cold but beyond that, you must survive on your own. To enter the fortress, we must find 6 pieces of a key, I have detected them scattered around, come, there is one nearby

The Blizzard

The sound of chains clanking is all that is heard as Raven holds out her arm and brings the warriors to a halt

Raven: My arch fiend has summoned demons to guard his fortress. Their magic is so strong that if they claim you, I cannot bring you back. Each of them drags a casket, one of which contains a piece of the key we seek. A difficult trial, but this blistering snowstorm makes it ever harder. (She raises her staff, the gem glows but nothing changes) it appears I cannot stop the storm, and if I dispatch the demons, their chests may be leave with them. Use the noise

their chains make to follow them but be cautious, they may hear you as well. Watch your step warriors, and let the challenge (she slams her staff down and zaps the screen) begin

The warriors listen for the sound of the chains carried by the demons, with the sound engrained into them, they split up, each with a key to remove the chains. Hamras tries his key on a chain but it doesn't work, he quickly moves so as the demon following doesn't spot him.

Lerdan, Valtho and Etony all find other demons and begin trying their keys, Valtho's key unlocks the chain but it doesn't carry the key they seek, the others find their keys do not work, Valtho returns to Raven, who gives him another key to try.

Pale's footsteps make light noises but he's quiet enough to avoid detection by the demons. He manages to take a demon's chain but finds the key doesn't work in the lock. Hamras tries again, he successfully removes a chain, but it doesn't carry the key.

As Hamras returns for a key, Lerdan and Etony both approach demons they believe to be different, unfortunately neither of their keys seem to work. Valtho tries his new key in a demon chain, but it doesn't work.

With every chain that the warriors release, the harder the demons are going to be to pinpoint, they warriors know they must hurry, Pale manages to unlock one of the chains, but finds nothing attached.

Hamras and Pale now have new keys and are joining the others in unlocking the chests, Lerdan's key unlocks the chain, and he finds the piece of the key at the end of it. He holds it up into the air, signalling Raven to dispatch the demons with her staff.

The storm seems to surpass suddenly once the demons are gone

Raven: We must move quickly warriors, there is another key within a short journey (she leads the warriors away)

Valtho: This was our first challenge in this icy world and it really felt like the stakes were high. It was touch and go for a while as it was really hard to find the key we needed, but luckily Etony got it. A good start for us.

Etony: I didn't really feel much to be honest I felt no real pressure going into the challenge so I just kept my composure and hoped for the best and luckily we found the part of the key

Pale: This is the very first challenge all of us had to face as a team was certainly a tough challenge. Mind you that challenge in particular was tough on me given my stealth isn't as good as my fellow warriors, there were some points that

my footsteps might have been too noisy so I am rather pleased that Etony managed to end the challenge by finding the key.

Lerdan: Whilst searching for the key, I felt really confident but a bit nervous. When I found out I had the key to the chains that had the key, I was so happy and I'm glad to have found the key because the demons were a little scary.

Hamras: I feel that I didn't really do much to aid the team in this challenge and I definitely could have done more but given my performance during the last five days, the team probably thought I wouldn't be able to do it as well as someone else would.

Raven flies ahead of the warriors and sees the spaceship floating over the fortress

<Raven>: If that ship fires upon the fortress, everything is lost, but if I do destroy it, it may bring his wrath upon the warriors. I cannot risk that yet (she flies to the ground and transforms to human form, she raises her staff and the ship becomes invisible) the warriors approach the next challenge.

The Ice Cliff

Raven: Warriors, your talismans will allow you to gain grip on the slippery ice, and you will need it as the second piece of the key you seek is hidden in the cliff. One of you must retrieve the key, but all of you must make the climb (she transforms and flies away)

After a quick discussion Valtho takes to the cliff, he uses the pick-axes to smash into the ice and gain grip, and despite a few moments hesitation he makes quick progress up the cliff towards the entrapped piece of the key.

Valtho soon has the key in his sight, holding on to one pick-axe he stretches out and uses the other to smash through the ice the key is entrapped in. He manages to secure it before finishing the climb to the top.

Etony takes to the cliff next, unafraid of the heights and ascending quickly. His grip doesn't falter but as he reaches the top, his strength begins to fade. With the encouragement of the others he succeeds and joins Valtho at the top.

Hamras takes to the cliff next, and whilst he's a little slower making the climb that Etony and Valtho were, he maintains his pace as continues up the icy surface. Slowly but surely, he approaches the top and soon joins Valtho and Etony.

Lerdan takes to the cliff next, whilst he has no trouble making his first steps, maintaining grip under the strain proves a lot for him. He powers through but his progress is slow, but with encouragement from above and below, he makes it to the top.

Pale is the last on the cliff, he shows no fear and initially makes quick progress but the power required for the climb saps his strength quickly and he slows down as he nears the top, Valtho and Etoney help him onto the ground as he reaches the top.

Raven: Well done, but there is still far to go this day. We must continue (she leads them on)

Pale: I am very good at climbing, and I don't have any problems with heights, so without being cocky I knew I was going to complete that challenge eventually. As I was climbing higher up the cliff I did notice my strength was fading the higher up the mountain I went but my tactics were to keep going as I was determined not to end my quest on a simple task like that.

Hamras: Climbing is probably one of the things that I am best at, so I knew that I would do fine in this challenge, but my team mates were much faster than I was - I know it's good that they all survived, but I'm beginning to think it wouldn't make much of a difference if I wasn't present to help the team because all of them are better than me at something.

Lerdan: I was quite confident when making the climb because I'm not afraid of heights, but as I was getting higher, I was struggling to find a place to put my feet and my hands, but with the encouragement of my team, I made it to the top

Valtho: The climb looked intimidating at the start, but I knew the challenge played to my strengths. Getting the key was definitely the hardest part and when I had to switch my weight onto one pick-axe I was definitely nervous. Luckily, I did it and everyone made it up unharmed. The challenges are definitely getting tougher in the cold.

Etoney: At the beginning of the climb I felt really good I didn't think that it was too hard but when I was getting to the top I started to really feel my strength vanishing but I think I had enough in the tank to reach the top.

The Village

Raven: My staff can sense the piece of the key here, but thanks to my arch nemesis' cruel magics, I cannot pinpoint its location exactly. Search the village, find the key. And let us hope the inhabitants do not return swiftly. I will keep a lookout for their return (she transforms into a Raven)

With 5 huts to be searched, the warriors quickly split up, each taking a different hut. Pale enters a hut and begins searching through the owner's belongings, aside the occasional trinket, it seems to be mostly just warm clothes.

Lerdan enters one of the larger huts, he sees the pans hanging from the wall and searches behind them. Hamras searches a hut made with stones, he finds dead hares strung from the entrance, but ignores them as he enters.

Valtho is searching a hut made of wood, there's plenty of empty space, but he can't see anywhere the key could hide. Etoney searches the smallest hut, he crawls in and begins his search.

Confident that the piece of the key isn't in the hut he was searching, Pale leaves and goes to join Lerdan in the larger hut. They search through the contents of the house but ultimately come up with nothing.

Valtho and Etoney both exit their respective huts, they believe that nothing is in them. Hamras soon exits, also empty handed. Raven lands and shares her warning.

Raven: Hurry warriors, the tribe are returning

Confused about coming up empty handed, all the warriors think back to where they looked and anywhere they might've missed. Valtho has an idea and rushes back into the hut he was searching. Underneath one of the beds he finds the piece of the key and returns to his fellow warriors.

Raven: We must keep moving, it would not be wise to face the tribe whose village we just ransacked (she leads the warriors away)

Lerdan: I felt my performance was good, but then I started to have trouble to find the key. When Pale entered my hut, I was glad because I thought that I would need some help, but neither of us could find the key so we left the hut empty handed. When we saw everyone else empty handed, I was confused as the key has to be in one of the huts, but Valtho managed to find it in the hut he was searching and we escaped before the tribe returned.

Etoney: I don't think this was a challenge for me as I don't have a great talent at spotting hidden objects so I knew that if it was in my hut we would be in trouble but it wasn't so I'm glad we got the next key part.

Valtho: This was a really frustrating challenge and felt a lot like our first challenge today because we kept searching for the key but couldn't find it. I was really annoyed with myself for not finding the key after I realized I forgot to look under the bed... such an obvious place to miss! Oh well, at least it didn't cost the team.

Hamras: I felt completely useless in this challenge, I couldn't find anything at all that could even help my team one bit. I need to try and prove myself to the team as much as I can.

Pale: If truth is to be told, I actually feel I was one of the warriors who performed better on this task as I have a very good eyesight and this was useful in searching where objects are normally. After some time I knew the key piece wasn't in my hut so I opted to join Lerdan in searching the largest hut but with not much luck. Turns out that the piece was underneath one of the beds

in the hut Valtho searched but I don't really blame him as anyone would have made the same mistake in searching those objects.

The Islands

Raven: Warriors, across the water lies another piece of the key. It would take me but a moment to (she spots the space ship becoming visible again) you will have to do this challenge alone, when you are done, head north, there is a cavern where the next key segment is (she transforms into a Raven and flies away)

The warriors see a series of stones that an agile warrior could use to reach the key. After a quick discussion it's decided that Pale should make the attempt for the key. Pale agrees and prepares himself. He steps onto the first ice platform, it shakes under his weight but Pale maintains his balance

Pale focuses on the path ahead and continues to step forward, the ice shakes, but with his boots providing extra grip, and his own agility Pale is able to keep himself balanced, soon he reaches the half way point

Pale jumps to the next platform, whilst his balance remains impeccable. He becomes closer and closer to the island where the key is located, he makes one last step onto the island and collects the key they need, but to keep it, he must make it back.

Pale looks out at his fellow warriors, and takes a second, catching his breath, summoning his energy to make the return journey. Soon he jumps onto the nearest ice platform, the platform shakes but Pale holds his balance

He continues to leap between the platforms, closing in on his fellow warriors, who are shouting whatever encouragement they can. Pale's balance holds as he reaches the half-way point once again.

Pale closes in on the starting point, with the piece of the key still in his hand. The other warriors' encouragement gets louder and more inspiring as he gets closer to them. Before long, he makes the final step back onto land.

Pale: Agility happens to be my strongest point so I wasn't worried about falling off at any point of the challenge. There was no pressure when I was going towards the key given I can normally hold my body weight whilst traversing the stones, but for some reason it was harder on the way back given the extra danger of dropping the key which was the last thing I wanted to do, the pressure was on me a bit but really there was no way I was falling in the water as I didn't want to let my team down in collecting the key.

Raven lands closer to the fortress and looks up at the ship, she points her staff at it but the gem does not glow

<Raven>: No, not yet! The reality stone has been away from its true reality for too long, I must find a fissure to recharge the stone's energy, and quickly. (She transforms into a Raven, her feathers are noticeably whiter than they were, she flies away)

The Cave

The warriors find the cave Raven spoke of, but the entrance is sealed with ice. They try to break through it but the ice is too thick, they search around for tools and find nothing. They try and hit it with rocks but the ice does not break, they seem confined to their efforts, Raven returns to them.

Raven: My staff is too weak to melt the ice here, there is a way, but it will not be kind. One of your talismans placed into the ice should melt it away in a matter of moments. But once you remove the talisman, all the protections it has granted you will be undone and you will be lost. And I have not the power to restore you. Consider your options warriors

A discussion begins between the warriors about what they have to do here. Pale is adamant that it isn't going to be him, and suggests that Valtho and Lerdan be given a pass given their performances in the initial heats

Hamras and Etony argue back, trying to persuade the others of their worth. Valtho suggests they select using the Black feather, which Pale argues against doing. Lerdan keeps quiet as the others continue their discussion

Pale continues to rule himself out of being sacrificed, and clearly points to Etony being the one to go, given the performances of the others in the heats and Hamras' stealthiness. Etony points out that they're all pretty stealthy and it doesn't count him out

The debate continues and Valtho offers to sacrifice himself if no decision is made. With no warrior wanting this, Etony, Hamras and Pale offer themselves to be chosen by the black feather.

Raven: Very well (she takes out a bag) inside this bag are 3 feathers, two are white and one is black, whoever chooses the black feather must meet their fate

Etony reaches into the bag first, he takes out a feather and he's relieved to find that it's white. Pale goes in second, he takes out his feather and finds that it's also white. Hamras takes out the black feather. He removes his talisman and places it against the cave wall. As

the cold quickly consumes him, the talisman melts the ice, and allows the others to grab the key.

Raven: I know the price was high, but the key is almost complete, only 1 piece remains, and it is close. Wait in the cave, I must recharge my staff before you can continue

Pale: This was the most stressed out I have been on the quest so far and after making our decision I was more or less furious! There was no way I was to end my quest like that or to lose Valtho or Lerdan at that point as the quest would be far harder without them and using the black feather draw was the last thing I wanted it to go. The fact we lost Hamras this way made me enraged with anger especially as I honestly tried to save him by excluding him from the black feather but what is done is done and there is nothing we can do to change it. Hamras will certainly be missed and us 4 needs to pull together in order to do well in his memory.

Lerdan: When making the decision of who to sacrifice, I felt very indecisive because sometimes I'm not good at making decisions, and I didn't really contribute much in the discussion because when Pale said that me and Valtho can't give up our talismans, I just left it for Pale, Hamras and Etony to sort the decision out between them. I think it was fair for them to use the black feather draw; although I am upset that we lost Hamras as he was a good warrior and would have been helpful in future challenges.

Valtho: The Cave was by far the toughest decision that we have had to make as a team so far. If I could change anything, I'd just like a discussion where Pale, Etony and Hamras could have been more amicable. Now that Hamras is gone, it feels really sad that we spent our last moments with him bickering. It got to the point where I really thought sacrificing myself might unify the team and help the quest in the future, but eventually the black feather was used. Hamras will be missed, especially as the first of the elite warriors to go.

Etony: I have mixed feelings as I think we could have figured out something in much calmer situations and I'll admit it I was nervous because I didn't want my quest to end so soon but looking back maybe it would have been the right thing to but for now Hamras has left us and we must carry on for his sake and just hope nothing goes wrong for here on out because I can't see how we can afford it.

Scene 3

Fortress of Solitude

Raven hears a strange metallic growling

<Raven>: I heard that noise once before, it signifies nothing good. (The door is smashed in and the creatures corner Raven, he transforms into a Raven and flies above them, but they're quickly in pursuit, he finds the figure, struggling to fight off more of them, he sends 2 flying into the giant statue but they quickly recover,

the figure spots Raven and as he's being overwhelmed uses the last of his staff's energy to return Raven's staff to his hands, Raven slams it to the ground and an electrical field pushes out the creatures behind him, it stuns them long enough for Raven to transform and fly to higher ground. The figure is being pummelled by the creatures, with his staff now useless to him, Raven flies and blasts a few of them from a distance, giving the figure time to recover, the creatures blasted continue to glow with the yellow energy of Raven's staff until their heads explode) it seems magic is their weakness. (He lands atop the statue and creates a magical symbol, he launches it and destroys the aliens he can see, thinking the coast is clear, Raven flies back to the ground, but soon on of them shows up, and is about to pounce onto Raven but the figure steps in front of him and is knocked back, the creature approaches ready to kill, Raven raises his staff but the figure uses his staff to pierce right through it, killing it)

Raven: How did you know that would work? (The figure looks at him)

Scene 4

Arctic Circle

Raven's staff glows red as she approaches a fissure

<Raven>: This reality has many fissures, it's how that fiend slipped in and how I followed (her staff glows brighter as she pushes it in to the fissure) invisible to the human eye, but not mine (she removes her staff from the fissure and immediately points it at the ship, which explodes, the debris turning to dust) I must return to the warriors.

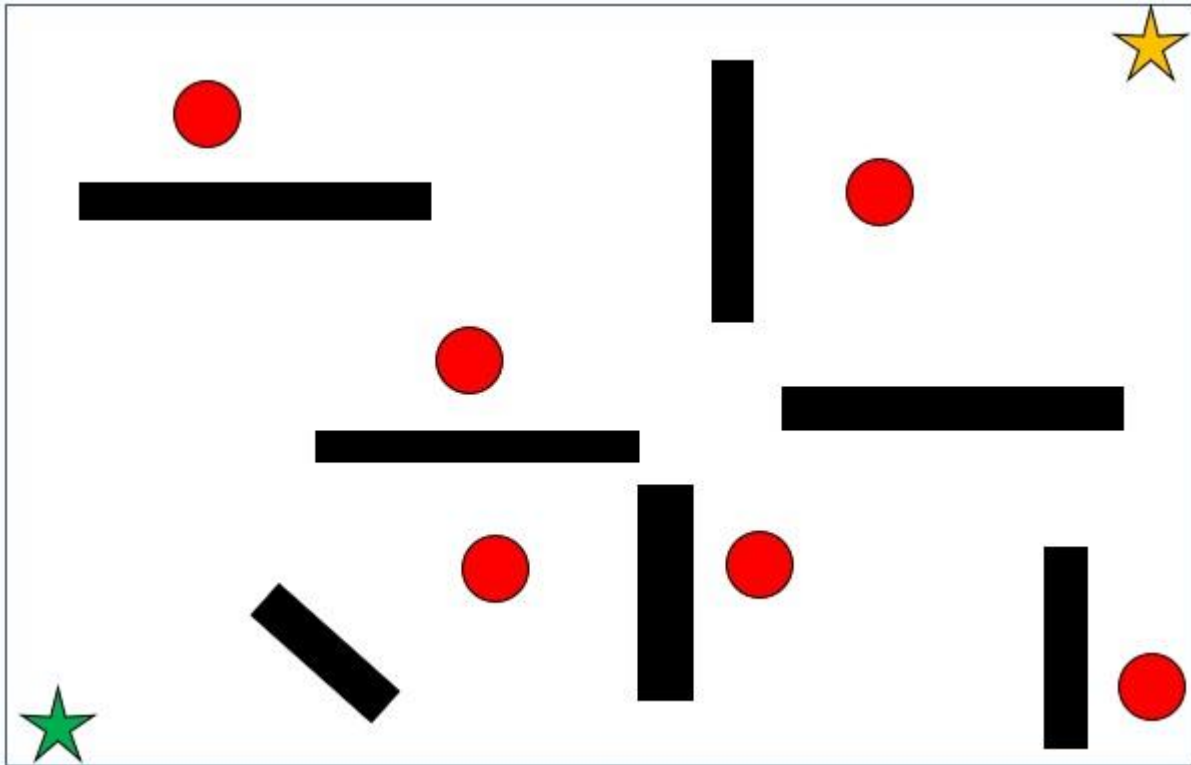
The Cave

Raven returns to them

Raven: Warriors, do not dwell on what has happened, you have 5 keys, we must find the last one. I fear time grows ever shorter.

Demon Patrol

Raven: The final piece of the key is here, but it is heavily guarded, more demons. They must be taken down for us to retrieve the keys. I will give you a look ahead (she raises her staff, and the warriors see a map of what's ahead)



Raven: The key lies at the yellow star, but should you take it, without first dispatching the demons guarding it (marked red) you invite their wrath. Move carefully, I will fly ahead and ensure no more demons come. (She turns into a Raven and flies off)

The warriors all seek cover behind a small ice hill, the look over as the demon changes direction. Pale and Etoney count the others in as they both move in, grabbing the demon and vanquishing it. With the demon gone, the warriors split up, with Valtho and Pale taking cover behind the hill to the north, whilst Lerdan and Etoney take the hill to the east

After checking the coast is clear, Pale and Etoney give Valtho and Lerdan clearance to sneak around the cover and dispatch the demons, Pale and Etoney follow their partners to ensure there's nothing left, but quickly have to take cover once again.

Pale and Valtho move north to take out the demon at the top of the map, whilst Etoney and Lerdan move west to take out the demon at the bottom right corner of the map. Pale and Etoney act as look outs, observing the demons' movements and soon they both manage to take down their respective demons

They both head towards the top right corner of the map and take cover behind a hill, the demon watches but Pale and Etoney prepare, Valtho and Lerdan prepare to take the demon out, both move forward from opposite sides, Lerdan is spotted and claimed just as Valtho takes the demon down, soon after the key is taken.

- Etoney: Things have just gone from bad to worse... Personally I don't blame the strategy, no one can because we all agreed that it would work so we can't blame one individual but ourselves in general. But losing Lerdan is a really big blow as we all know we was one of the two strongest warriors along with Valtho so yeah, it's hard to take but now we've just got to move on and hope we can make amends for our mistakes here.
- Valtho: I thought it couldn't get any worse and then it did. We were so close to completing that challenge, but Lerdan was taken by the last demon. That is a massive blow for the warriors. I feel so guilty. My plan failed and now only three of us remain. The others better chip in and we will have to be on our guard, if we are to pass a similar challenge later in the quest.
- Pale: I have no words to describe how badly that challenge ended... I am honestly lost for words. Looking back, I now know only one of us should have attempted to take down the final demon rather than both Lerdan and Valtho go for it as we would have remained intact if we did use that tactic. Honestly, we are now in a dangerous position given we have lost one of our strongest warriors, he certainly will be missed and really it is all our fault we lost such a good warrior today.
- Raven: It has been a tough day for the warriors, once there were 5, now only 3. But now we approach the fortress, this will be tougher than ever

Scene 5

Realm of the Dead

Hamras and Lerdan join the group in the realm of the dead and see the mysterious journal, with the imprint of the 3-headed serpent

Scene 6

Fortress of Solitude

- Raven: No-one who truly walks the path of evil would willingly put down their life in the service of someone. But I must have answers, what is going on? (the figure bids him towards the computer and types in, a dark face appears on the screen)
- Voice: Can anyone hear me? Are we getting through?
- Raven: (His tone considerably more sombre) I know that voice (the figure slams down on the computer and the picture becomes clearer)
- Voice: I think that did it, well done (we see that the person on the screen is Lex Luthor)
- Raven: (Growling) Luthor

NEXT TIME: THE TRUTH