

2 of 8

Alaunus was rebuilt from the ashes, but now new threats threaten to tear it down again.

The Riddler has hostages and will only release them if the warriors from the Warrior Academy can answer his riddles. Meanwhile, Raven has discovered an army of white “ghost demons”

Scene 1

Forest of Dawn Time, 22nd February 2033, 08:00 GMT

Rolfe speaks with a shaky voice

Rolfe: Are you sure?

Raven: Aye, demons have not been seen on Alaunus for a long time. And I’ve never seen them like this

Rolfe: I’ll send the warriors over, we could use as many eyes as possible looking into this

Raven: Let them deal with the Riddler, I’ll investigate

Rolfe: The Riddler hasn’t left any more clues, there is time.

Raven: I can hear that tone, what’s wrong?

Rolfe: Nothing, nothing at all

Scene 2

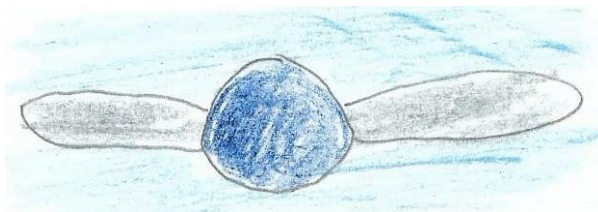
Warrior Academy

Rolfe puts down the phone, we can see that he is shaking all over. Gemma arrives and places her hands on his shoulders

Gemma: Relax, breathe (Rolfe takes deep breaths and eventually calms down) when you’re ready to talk about what that was about, I’ll listen, but first the warriors

Rolfe: Thank you (Gemma walks away; Rolfe breathes out heavily before preparing to summon the warriors)

Raven: The Fallen



Drones

Rolfe has the warriors gathered outside where they are confronted with 2 rows of drones

Rolfe: (Activates coms) Gemma?

Gemma: (On coms) I see them (Rolfe takes out a sidearm and begins shooting at them, the bullets bounce off the drones)

Rolfe: No good

Gemma: (On coms) Do we still have those adamantium arrows?

Rolfe: 25 of them

Gemma: (On coms) I'm routing coms to the warriors. We can't have those drones following you when you're with Raven. A good shot with those adamantium arrows should be able to destroy them. Try and get a few of them on the wing, we might be able to recover some intel. 4 would be a nice number. (2 other academy warriors bring out the arrows and 3 bows) Those bows are old and stiff; I wouldn't recommend firing more than 3 shots each

Rolfe: I can't aim with those things, here's hoping some of you can. (Trying to imitate Raven) Let the challenge begin or something

The warriors discuss their firing order for the challenge, they decide to step up one at a time so their arrows don't get in the way of one another. Yvarina, one of the less accurate warriors of the group steps up to shoot the first arrow. She tries to aim true but sadly the shot misses the mark.

Sileb steps up to take the next shot, success hits quickly as he manages to strike a wing in the first row with his first shot, unfortunately his next 2 arrows prove less successful and with his arms exhausted, he steps back for Rasha to take her shot

Rasha prepares to fire her first shot, it flies just past the drone in the first row and misses any drones in the second row, sadly success is not reached with either of her other arrows either, she steps down and Weyat is the next to step up

Weyat fires some precise shots and his aim proves true as he downs a drone with his first arrow by the wings, and does so again with his 3rd arrow. 3 drones have now been shot down, and all by the wings

Worbon steps up next and aims his first shot which unfortunately misses, with his second however he downs another drone in the first row by the wings, meaning that any necessarily intel could be gathered from them. With this in mind, the warriors now aim to destroy the remaining drones, Worbon's third shot misses and he steps down for Armsa

Armsa steps up to the task and his first shot also meets with success, he destroys the final drone in the first row. His second shot misses the slightly harder-to-hit drones in the second row but his 3rd shot destroys another drone

With 4 drones left to shoot down, Jedren steps up. He aims his first arrow but unfortunately does not hit the target. He claims back his honour with his next shots however as two more drones are destroyed with his next two arrows.

Tregan steps up to perform the much harder task of hitting one of the two remaining drones, she prepares her first shot and unfortunately it misses the mark. Her second shot, however, destroys the penultimate drone, she does not find success hitting the final drone

Landrek is the final warrior to step up, under the pressure of hitting the final drone. He breathes slowly and takes his time but his first and second shots both miss the drone. He takes his final shot and it strikes the wing of the final drone, taking it down.

Rolfe: Well done, that's all of them taken down. Including 5 we can begin analysing. Raven is waiting for you in the Forest of Dawn Time, go! (The warriors head out)

Yvarina: I knew that I'd just be taking a single shot, whilst the more accurate of us would take three, as it'd be a waste for me to use any more than what would be leftover. I guess I felt a bit useless here, as I couldn't really do much to help, and I feel bad for being the one to drag our team down.

Sileb: Taking the shots was rather nerve-wracking, as we all had to rely on each other's accuracy, and while we did plan a great strategy, anything could happen. I'm really happy that I hit one of the wings, even though I missed my other two arrows, it was a relief to have hit one target.

Landrek: The pressure was definitely on me as I went up to take my shots as I had the tough task of taking down one of the harder drones. Although I would have preferred to have hit the drone with one of my earlier arrows, I still feel like I performed well in these circumstances and hopefully this will help me through some of the later challenges.

Worbon: I didn't feel too nervous when aiming in this challenge because we only needed one more drone to get all the necessary intel, and luckily I got it which meant that the others could focus more on destroying the rest.

Armsa: When I was taking my shots I was a bit nervous but I have trained a lot in the archery fields so I knew what I was doing. When we got all of them down it felt really good as we had the intel and hopefully sent a message to the Riddler that we are going to beat him and he will not get away.

Tregan: I was very nervous, but know I have a good aim which helped steady my hand. Disappointed to waste my first shot, but was glad to hit with my second. I'm thrilled we succeeded.

Weyat: I was worried when it was my turn, as I felt that if I hadn't hit any of the drones, I would have left the team down, but once I hit my first drone, I felt very proud of myself and when I hit another drone, I felt very happy that we had gathered all of the intel we needed.

Laiam: I didn't have much to do in this challenge but I'm glad my fellow warriors succeeded in taking down the drones

Rasha: It's disappointing that none of my arrows managed to hit the target but at least we were successful overall

Jedren: I got 2 drones down and I couldn't be happier about it, I hope this brings us a step closer to catching the Riddler.

Scene 3

Forest of Dawn Time, 11:00 GMT



The Only Way through

The warriors catch up with Raven

Raven: Stay quiet and watch (one of those white demon creatures Raven saw passes them by) you have seen what demons are in your studies, but as you can tell, these are not ordinary demons. We must find out the root of the problem. To do that, we must pass over this patrol route. There is a beam (he points his staff to a beam into the sky) you can climb to and pass to avoid them. I will join you on the other side.

The warriors briefly discuss an order to head into the treetops, Worbon volunteers to go first and begins the climb to the high beam, he reaches it without incident and begins to progress across it, easily able to keep his balance and showing no fear he makes it to the other side and climbs down.

Armsa volunteers to be the next to make the climb, he does so and has little issue on the beam either, he is the next to make it to the other side. Tregan offers to go next, and she begins to make the climb.

The climb begins to slow down as she can see the height's she's getting to, but she makes it to the top and begins to walk along the beam. Although a fair bit shakier than the others she successfully makes it to the other side.

Yvarina is the next warrior to volunteer herself for the challenge, she makes the determined climb but struggles more with the beam. She keeps her composure despite a few wobbles and makes it to the other side.

Sileb is the next warrior to attempt the trial and whilst he has no issues with the climb, the crossing becomes daunting for him. He does manage to power through however and he makes it to the other side.

Jedren volunteers to be next and starts to make the climb, he has some uncertainty with the crossing but makes it through. Landrek volunteers himself to be next, the climb begins to

tire him out, making his wobbles on the beam even more apparent, still he makes it to the other side.

Weyat is the first warrior of the remaining 3 to make the climb, he makes an adequate job of the climb and begins to make progress across the beam. He faces some wobbles but nothing to push him into the demons below, he too completes the trial.

Rasha volunteers herself as the penultimate warrior to climb. She has little issue with the challenge and joins the others. Laiam is the last warrior to do the challenge, but like Rasha he seems well accustomed to it, he joins his fellow warriors past the demons.

Raven: Well done warriors, now we are truly in the Lions' Den

Weyat: I was ok on the climb up to the beam, but once I got there, I was very nervous. I wanted to get it over with quickly and when I wobbled, I got very scared but I survived and we have many more challenges ahead.

Yvarina: When we were faced with the beam, I knew it'd be hard for me because I'm pretty clumsy. I realised how this was the point in which I might have died. I got through it though. I managed to keep my composure and get to the end!

Landrek: Walking along the beam wasn't that bad, I feel as though that the climb up took its toll on me. Hopefully this won't predict what will happen if there are any tasks that are similar to this.

Worbon: I felt a little worried up on the beam because I'm not too fond of heights but it didn't bother me that much and I was able to keep my balance which was the most important thing.

Armsa: I was not that scared on the high beam as I like to go rock climbing and you can't have a fear of heights for that

Tregan: Although I hate heights, my balance is good, so I wasn't too worried, even though I was shaking on the climb up.

Sileb: I'm not normally that bad with heights, but looking across the beam just felt dizzying. I managed to power through, and I'm glad I mustered the courage to make it to the far side.

Rasha: I wish I hadn't been second to last to do this challenge, I felt my stomach turn as I was on the beam

Laiam: I was fine with the heights and balancing wasn't an issue for me, so I'm just glad we were successful

Jedren: I was a bit wobbly on the beam, heights isn't exactly my best element, but I'm glad I've done it and we're all on the other side

Scene 4

Warrior Academy

Gemma is leading a small band of warriors trying to hack into the drives of the drones that were shot down. The door is burst down and 30 Riddler Thugs, armed with escrima sticks enter, the warriors stand up and try to fight them but they're badly outnumbered and

knocked out. They approach Gemma, who turns around in her chair and kicks on backwards before throwing the chair to knock one of them out, she jumps over the thugs to the one she knocked out and grabs his escrima sticks. She charges through, using her superior athleticism to her advantage, she doesn't stop moving, isolating the Riddler's thugs and taking them out one by one until only one remains, he sneaks up behind her but a gun is raised to his head, a gun held by Rolfe.

Rolfe: Drop your weapons (The thug drops his escrima sticks) go crawling back to the Riddler (he runs off, Rolfe checks the warriors' pulse and is relieved to find they're all alive)

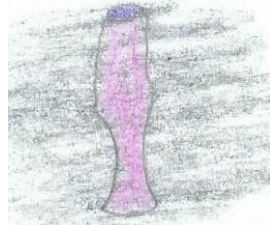
Gemma: Well, an attack like that proves we're onto something with these drones

Rolfe: It also means we need some better security, this won't be the last attack

Gemma: (Nods) time to bring out the vibranium.

Scene 4

Forest of Dawn Time, 14:00 GMT



The Mist

The area around them is coated in mist

Raven: These mists are magically created with intent of disguising whatever is occurring. Fortunately, I can see well enough to concoct a potion to clear these mists. Do you have the vials on your persons? (The warriors nod) good. Heed carefully my instructions, if this potion is enchanted incorrectly, we are all in danger. The first ingredient is dust of the Oak tree, the bottle for this is small and tear shaped

The warriors, practically blinded by the mists, begin examining their bottles using only their fingers, they take care of the bottles, always replacing them once they had been examined. Tregan discovers a bottle that matches Raven's description and passes it to Raven

Raven: The second ingredient is ash of a Phoenix, it is kept in a medium-sized rectangular bottle, rectangular in every perspective

The warriors search for the larger of the bottles in their possession, they examine these bottles with care. Yvarina thinks she has the bottle before realising the base was not rectangular and puts it away, Worbon finds the bottle in his possession and hands it to Raven

Raven: The third ingredient is the powdered scales of a dragon, the bottle for this is tube-shaped

They continue to search for the item which Raven had described, Laiam thinks he has it but realises that there are jagged edges which a tube would not have, Yvarina finds a bottle that matches this description

Raven: The fourth ingredient is the tears of a Black Widow, the bottle is small has a distinctive A-shape, the lid is circular

The search continues as the warriors examine the bottles, Rasha has one close to Raven's description except it has a square lid, Armsa discovers this one and hands the bottle to Raven for the potion.

Raven: The fifth ingredient is the blood of a spider, the bottle for which is small and spherical with a round lid

Worbon thinks he had felt something similar to that description before, upon re-examination he discovers the lid was not round, Landrek discovers this one and hands his discover to Raven

Raven: The sixth ingredient is the mucus of a toad, the bottle for this is small, triangular with a square lid on an edge

Jedren thinks he'd felt something that matches this description. He re-examines it and finds that the lid is on one of the corners rather than on the edge, Sileb finds a bottle that matches that description and passes it to Raven

Raven: The seventh ingredient is only known as element y, the bottle is medium-sized and Y shaped with a circular lid on the base

They all examine more bottles for this, each of them with an idea of what the bottle might be, however only Jedren has possession of this bottle and after confirming it to be the one he thinks it is, he hands it to Raven

Raven: The final ingredient is red sand; you will find it in a small T-shaped bottle. The lid is square-shaped and at the centre of the top

Weyat remembers a bottle like this and after double-checking he passes it to Raven, Raven completes the potion and the steams from the potion begin clearing the mists. They see massive hordes of ghost-like white demons standing in the forest.

Raven: It appears we have been successful, as of yet they do not see us but do not expect that privilege to last

- Yvarina: I think I did better here than I have done throughout the rest of today, as my hands are quite sensitive to touching things, so I didn't feel too put-off by being blinded and having to rely on our hands.
- Sileb: It was a rather weird experience. The mists were so hard to see through and trying to find the right bottles was tough. I'm disappointed that I didn't do very well in that part of the challenge since everyone else seemed to find the bottles before me, but we managed to power-through as a team anyway!
- Landrek: I felt quite comfortable with this task, as my sense of touch is usually quite good at helping me pick up on attention to detail.
- Worbon: Not being able to see the containers wasn't much of a deter because most of us were really good at finding which was which.
- Armsa: It was not too bad for us as we all had a good sense of touch
- Tregan: My fingers are very sensitive, so I felt quite confident in being able to identify the bottles.
- Weyat: It was a challenge, only having our sense of touch to identify the bottles. It was a lot harder than I expected as I thought we would have been able to have some visibility, but the fog was very thick, and made me think I was blindfolded. We made the potion, and I'm very confident for the next challenge, whatever it may be!
- Laiam: It wasn't easy, a lot of the bottles felt very similar and I was never quite sure if I had one or not, thankfully we're through it.
- Rasha: I'm glad we got through this challenge, it was tough not having eyes to see and reminded me that we rely on them so often
- Jedren: A lot of the bottles seemed very similar, I came close to offering the wrong bottle but thankfully we were clever and survived this challenge.

Raven and the warriors are hiding behind some trees as they see the white demons congregate in a small clearing, a black-cloaked figure stands before them but the warriors cannot hear what he's saying, Raven transforms and tries to get closer. The black-cloaked figure points at the warriors, the demons turn around and begin to proceed towards them. Raven transforms and tries to blast them with his staff as the black cloaked figure blends back into the shadows.

Raven: Warriors, RUN!



Escape

With all the other routes blocked off, the warriors dive into the loch to escape. The demon creatures do not attempt to follow them but as the last of them makes it about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way across the loch, several demons submerge their hands into the water and the water begins to turn white.

The warriors continue swimming, becoming aware of the demons' activities, as they approach about a third of the way across the loch. Yvarina is at the front of the group with Armsa and Sileb not far behind, Worbon and Jedren slightly behind, Landrek and Tregan slightly further behind with Laiam, Rasha and Weyat bringing up the rear.

The demons attack begins catching up with the warriors, causing them to redouble their efforts, although their positions remain much the same. Laiam, Rasha and Weyat seem to be reacting negatively to the coldness of the water, slowing them down even further and putting them at risk.

Yvarina manages to pass the half way mark with the others not far behind, the demons attack progresses and Weyat is claimed, without a physical body, the revival potion cannot bring him back. The others once again redouble their efforts to try and escape.

With the demons attack close to engulfing the loch, Yvarina make it to the shore. She shouts encouragement to her fellow warriors as Armsa and Sileb also make it to shore, the demons attack claims Rasha as their next victim.

Now frantic, Yvarina, Armsa and Sileb shout encouragement to their fellow warriors, not wanting to lose any more of them, Worbon and Jedren make it to the shore and help encourage the others. Tregan makes it to shore with Landrek as Laiam is also consumed by the demons' attack.

Yvarina: When I made it to the shore, my first thoughts were to make sure everyone were still okay. I looked around and couldn't find Weyat. I panicked for a moment, but realised my best bet was to try and cheer them on, to help them soldier on. I saw Rasha get killed though, and it made me stand in shock for a moment. I realised that I had to deal with it myself, and carry on cheering for them, but when Laiam was also attacked, I couldn't help but cry to myself after losing my friends.

Sileb: It was such a blur at the end there. I'd just gotten to shore and we were cheering the others on. I'd noticed that Rasha and Weyat were gone and I felt really upset. I just wanted to scream but I focused on encouraging the other warriors. When Laiam was taken, that was just too much. We lost three of our friends, and we can't bring them back because their bodies were taken... Damnit! We just have to forge on with the seven we have left... I did have a moment to myself after the attack, but they wouldn't want us to dwell on them, we all knew the risks when starting the quest.

- Landrek: I'm not going to lie, when I saw how quickly the demons attacked Rasha, Weyat and Laiam I really started to panic, as I was definitely one of the slower swimmers and I began to think that I wasn't going to make it in time. However, while I am filled with a sense of relief that I made safely, I'm still slightly distraught that my fellow warriors were lost that quickly. However, I'm sure that it won't affect us too badly for future challenges.
- Worbon: I felt pretty scared about having to cross the loch because the water was quite cold and I can't stand swimming. The fact we lost three valuable members just made me more worried but the others' encouragements helped me get across. I feel really concerned now for the quest because we've lost a lot of important warriors who all had lots of skills, but I hope that we can make it through anyway.
- Armsa: When I got to the shore I looked for Weyat but I didn't see him which made me worried for the other warriors as the light was close to all of them. It makes worried for the trials ahead as not all of us will make it back...
- Tregan: Losing three warriors in one challenge is a big blow to our quest. I hope we can manage to use out remaining warrior's strengths to get through.
- Jedren: 3 warriors in one challenge lost is a big blow to us, but we will have to stay strong as there's still a long way to go before our quest is over

The warriors continue running, not noticing the ground beneath them opening up, they fall through the hole it creates, which then seals up, from a zoomed out shot we see the hole was in the shape of a question mark

Continued in Part 3