CLASS

SERIES 1

EPI SODE 4

"Co-Owner of a Lonely Heart"

Part 1

Ву

PATRI CK NESS

Draft 6 - Shooting Script 26th May 2016 A dark, dark place, the stars obscured behind wavering living SHADOW A place of ROCKS and CRAGS and PERMANENT NIGHT. The atmosphere is thick, the only colour flashes of RED as we fly through BURNING CITIES and ARMY CAMPS-

Heading towards a BRUTAL BUILDING, half-castle, half-ruin. We fly through the open GATES into the home of CORAKINUS...

CUT TO:

2 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, CORAKINUS' INNER SANCTUM - 2 NIGHT 8

... where he sits on a THRONE of rock and charcoal, <u>held down</u> by two LARGE SHADOW KI N GUARDS (practical FX), as an OLDER SHADOW KI N (named Rannus), prepares a procedure on Corakinus' chest.

Rannus forms his hands into a cup shape. A small STORM OF SHADOWS forms there, surrounding a SMALL BLUE LIGHT. Deep breath then he-

PLUNCES HIS HANDS directly into Corakinus' chest. Corakinus YELLS in agony, his eyes flashing red.

RANNUS

One more moment... The anchor is nearly in place!

CUT TO:

2A INT. CORAKINUS' HEART - NIGHT 8

2A

A body of FIRE and DARKNESS, his HEART beats, PHASING OUT OF EXISTENCE every other beat...

Rannus' shadowy hands place the flickering BLUE LIGHT onto Corakinus' human heart.

CUT TO:

2B INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, CORAKINUS' INNER SANCTUM - 2B NIGHT 8

As before.

1

RANNUS

Ther e!

Rannus removes his hands; the hole is healed over with blue light. At the relief from the pain, Corakinus PUNCHES Rannus, knocking him away. Silence as Rannus

Corakinus, recovering, puts a hand to his chest. We-

ZCOM I NTO

3 INT. CORAKINUS' HEART - NIGHT 8 3

The heart appears... then disappears... then reappears, the SMALL BLUE LIGHT stuck to it-

ZOOM BACK OUT TO:

4 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, CORAKINUS' INNER SANCTUM -NIGHT 8

Coraki nus glares at Rannus. Rannus' hope falls.

CORAKI NUS

The heart still leaves my body. The anchor has not worked.

Coraki nus steps down from the throne towards Rannus.

CORAKI NUS (CONT'D) Do you believe this an state of affairs for the King of the Shadow Kin? For he who leads the War of the Underneath?

RANNUS

No, Majesty...

A SHADOW SWORD extends from Corakinus' hand. He moves slowly towards Rannus.

CORAKI NUS

Name your failure.

RANNUS

We have been unable to-

CORAKI NUS

" We"?

RANNUS

I believed an anchor of our lifeblood would hold the heart in our world. It did not. (bows) I deserve deat h.

Coraki nus rai ses his sword to Rannus' neck.

CORAKI NUS

Your replacement?

RANNUS

I thought young Kharrus.

CORAKI NUS

A promising intellect.

RANNUS

She may succeed where I have not.

CORAKI NUS

She had better.

Rannus knows the score, readies himself for punishment.

In an ELEGANT YET TERRIFYING SPIN, Corakinus flashes around, swinging his sword high in the air, bringing it down on the neck of Rannus-

Rannus squeezes his eyes shut, waiting for death-

But it doesn't come. Corakinus' sword has paused above Rannus' neck. An uncomfortable silence. Rannus looks up, baffled.

RANNUS

Mai est v?

Coraki nus doesn't move, looks very troubled. He puts a hand to his heart. The Guards shuffle, disturbed.

CORAKI NUS

(struggling) Your mind, Rannus. It is our best. Your death would be wasteful.

Rannus stares at him, with astonished HATRED.

RANNUS

You would... You would show me

Corakinus still wavers. We hear the sound of swords being unsheathed. Corakinus turns to see his Guards have grown SWORDS out of their hands.

Coraki nus recogni ses the threat. He stares them out.

He turns back to Rannus, puts his free hand on his heart.

He gains resolve. With a ROAR he raises his sword and CUTS Rannus IN TWO, shoulder to hip. Rannus' body falls to the floor. Corakinus stares at his Guards.

CORAKI NUS

Bring me Kharrus.

Turns in a flourish and we:

CUT TO:

5 INT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 8, 22:30

5

C/U on April looking surprised. We <u>pull back</u> to see her with her hand on her heart, too, staring at the DESK CHAIR in her bedroom

Pull back farther to see <u>it's been sliced in two in the same</u> <u>diagonal angle as Rannus</u>, smoke rising from it.

Pull back yet farther to see that April IS HOLDING A SHADOW SWORD emanating directly from her hand.

APRIL (in shock) Ch. my.

THEME MUSIC RISES - "The Age of the Understatement" by The Last Shadow Puppets.

TITLES.

6 EXT. STREET LEADING TO APRIL'S HOUSE - DAY 9, 08:00

6

In the clear sky above the street, follow a single FLOWER PETAL caught on a light breeze. It's light, lavender, almost a figure of eight, like an orchid petal.

It flips and tumbles in the wind. We follow it down the street, hearing a VIOLIN grow louder, playing a fast, furious, angry jig.

The petal blows closer and closer before getting STUCK on APRIL'S BEDROOM WINDOW Pull focus to see her as the violin player. We move through the window to-

CUT TO:

7 INT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 08:01

7

April plays, angrily, with greater passion than we've ever seen. Drops of sweat flick from her. She reaches a crescendo-

Her VIOLIN STRING SNAPS. She flinches back and shakes her hand. The string snapping has left a cut on her palm

While she looks, worried, at the drop of a blood, she also sees a LITTLE SHADOW CIRCLE conjuring there. Within it there's a sudden flash of BLUE LIGHT and her cut is healed. She's astonished, worried.

JACKIE (O.S.) Break a string?

April closes her hand as she turns to see her MUM (in her wheel chair) in the doorway. Jackie looks worried.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
(off violin playing)
That was... emphatic. Anything you want to tell me, April?

APRIL (turning away) What? No. Nothing. Why?

Long beat.

JACKI E

He's out.

APRI L

(beat)

I know.

JACKI E

(shocked)

He contacted you?

APRI L

He even has the same number. My phone just said, "Dad."

JACKI E

What did he say?

apri L

I didn't . Just like I didn't answer any of his letters apologising-

JACKI E

As if we're supposed to just forgive him I mean, I believe he was unwell but

APRI L

Lots of unwell people don't try to kill themselves with their family in the car.

JACKI E

(unhappy)

Yes.

(beat)

All contact is your choice. Otherwise, he's breaking the court order.

APRI L

I know.

(looks up) mokay Mum Paal

I'm òkay, Mum Really.

JACKI E

All right. I best get to work. The new manager has been hinting I'm better suited for back office than out on the retail floor.

APRIL (frowns)
That's against the law.

JACKIE
(defiant)
So it is.

Jackie exits. April looks at her palmagain. It's clear, no shadows at all, no cut. She closes it, worried.

CUT TO.

8 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 08:06 8 *
MATTEUSZ checks his outfit in the mirror. He looks over to

-- FLASHBACK of April kissing him from last week's episode.

He touches his own lips, then hides the action as VARUN enters in a suit, ready to leave for work.

RAM (CONT'D)

I thought you'd already gone.

VARUN

Benefit of being the big boss dentist.
(sips coffee)
You... seem like you're feeling a bit better lately, son.

Ram stops, looks at him, decides not to make a fuss.

RAM (zips up coat) Yeah.

An awkward moment. Varun is clearly trying to love his son here. Ram relents.

RAM (CONT'D)
I'm doing okay, Dad. It's been hard, but... I've made some new friends.
(glances up)
And you haven't told Mum? About my leg or...

Leaves the "or" hanging.

VARUN

(unhappy)

You asked me not to-

RAM

I don't want her worrying-

VARUN

I don't like the thought of you facing anything alone, son. We will always fight for you. And you, if you let us.

Ram is moved, but tries - like any teen - not to show it too much. But he does hug his father.

VARUN (CONT'D)

(turning to go)
Still, as long as this business is all finished and there are no more actual aliens still hanging about.

Doesn't see Ram's face as Ramleaves...

CUT TO:

MATTEUSZ

(slightly distressed) Charlie... Charlie, I don't even like

CHARLI E Yes, that's why it's a . One I take more seriously than you can ever imagine. It's not a burden that be shared.

MATTEUSZ And that's why you didn't say anyt hi ng?

CHARLI E Well, that and the fact that I live with someone who isn't scared of guns

CUT TO:

INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, ATRIUM, MEMORIAL WALL - DAY 9, 08:4012 * 12

We pan over the COAL HILL MEMORIAL WALL. There are old names from World Wars I & II, other conflicts, Gulf War, etc-

But we can also see the names "Pink, R D" and "Oswald, C" (followed by Kevin, Rachel, "Carroll, C" & "Dawson, T") before focussing on a CARETAKER putting up the new name of "Armitage, F". Quill watches, many STUDENTS and STAFF passing in the background.

> QUI LL I never even found out what the F stood for.

DOROTHEA (O.S.)

Quill turns and is presented with the warm, professional presence of DOROTHEA, a woman of clever and ambiguous mien.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D) Mss... Quill, I bel'i eve?

QUI LL (suspi ci ous)

DOROTHEA (offering her hand)
I've been wanting to meet you. Dor ot hea Ames, new Headt eacher.

QUI LL That was... fast.

Handshake. Dorothea frowns, sadly, at Mr Armitage's name.

DOROTHEA

True, but people who go missing from Coal Hill have a distressing tendency to stay that way, don't you find?

QUI LL

I've only been here a few months-

DOROTHEA

Ah, then don't listen to an old gossip like me. Though I particularly wanted to meet you, M ss Quill.

QUI LL

Me?

DOROTHEA

The Governors speak highly of you.

QUI LL

The Governors?

DOROTHEA

My dear, if you're going to answer everything I say with a question then... Well, we'll be fine friends, as I do like being the one with the answers.

QUI LL

But I've never the Governors.

Dor ot hea moves away, busy, busy, looks back:

DOROTHEA

They think you're a frightfully useful member of staff. Must get on! More soon!

She disappears in the flow of students. Quill watches her go.

CUT TO:

13 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, CORRIDOR - DAY 9, 08:43

13

April walks down the corridor, still distracted. Ram catches up to her.

RAM

April!

APRI L

(distracted)

Hey

They walk together awkwardly, neither of them breaking the silence. Ram waits and glances. And waits. And glances. Opens his mouth to say something. Closes it. April is pre-occupied.

RAM

(quickly) So I guess I'll see you later.

And abruptly walks off.

APRI L

(still distracted) Yeah, bye. Wait, what? Raml

But she's lost him

CUT TO:

14 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, CORRIDOR - DAY 9, 08:44 14 *

Tanya, Charlie and Matteusz walk together among other STUDENTS on their way to class. Tanya is incredulous.

TANYA

You've never had a Parents' Eveni ng?

CHARLI E

Princes tend not to.

MATTEUSZ

My parents always come, but this tímė...

TANYA
Maybe Quill can just have a meeting with herself about the both of you and be done with it.

CHARLI E

We have other classes. I'd like to know my progress. How I can improve.

Beat as both Tanya and Matteusz stare at him

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Don't we to be better students with the help of our parents? (off their looks)

TANYA

I don't think Quill is going to go for that.

CHARLI E

I'll just order her to. My future improvement is a kind of personal prot ect i on.

He turns to head off to a different class. Matteusz and Tanya watch him go.

TANYA

Hard to forget he's an alien, isn't it?

MATTEUSZ

Yes, is true.

Beat. Beat.

TANYA

Is he... human? You know. Down there?

Matteusz is horrified.

TANYA (CONT'D)

Not hing! Never mind!

Rushes of f.

CUT TO.

15 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, MISS SHAH'S CLASSROOM - DAY 9, 09:585 *

April sits at her desk in the History classroom of M SS SHAH (young, Indian). "Dunkirk" is written on the board and April waits for the class to begin, not speaking to anyone.

The classroom fills with STUDENTS and CHARLIE comes in. He sits down behind April with a smile.

CHARLI E

Mor ni ng.

April just gives an "Mm" in reply. Miss Shah starts to teach.

M SS SHAH

Now, I just you'll all have done your reading, so, context for today's discussion: the mindset of the soldier. 338,000 men evacuated, 100,000 of them straight from the beach. You are one of them What are you thinking as the boats arrive?

April frowns at this, as if she disapproves.

MALE STUDENT 1

Am I going to be bombed?

April looks at the student, baffled, almost glaring.

M SS SHAH

(nodding)
The Wehrmacht cut them off, and they very well could have been bombed at any time. So rescue is in sight. But will you make it?

April opens her mouth to strongly respond but is beaten by:

FEMALE STUDENT 1 Yeah, but that's what war is, though, isn't it? You're al ways waiting to die.

APRI L

(whispers to herself) You have no idea what war is.

M SS SHAH What's that, April?

April looks up, challenged. Hesitates, but then:

APRI L

We sit here and talk about war like we have the first clue. "M ndset of the soldier". How can anyone here even guess?

M SS SHAH

I magination is an act of empathy. Of course we can't what it's like-

APRI L

No, you can't-

M SS SHAH

But we can try to our sel ves-

APRI L

And why should we want to have empathy for cowards, anyway?

M SS SHAH

(taken aback)
Well, true, the evacuation is not without its controversies and we're going to be talking about-

APRI L

If you sign up for war, you sign up to die.

MALE STUDENT 1

That's harsh.

M SS SHAH

It is, a bit.

FEMALE STUDENT 1

My dad's in the army. He didn't sign up to die. He signed up so ot her people di e.

APRI L

(getting angrier)
Don't you think the soldiers
sign up for the same thing? Someone
dies in war.

M SS SHAH

Yes, and what we're after here, April, is to try to get inside the of that-

APRI L

(scoffing)
. What good is a soldier with fear? Cowards should be weeded out of any army. The soldiers at Dunkirk should have stayed and fought and . Who'd ever want to live as a coward anyway?

FEMALE STUDENT 1
Most human beings. What's your deal?

April looks at her, angrily. Then catches on that everyone is staring at her. She seems to come out of a kind of trance.

APRIL I don't... What was I saying?

The class just stares, even Charlie.

CUT TO:

16 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9

16

Corakinus stands in the UNIVERSE ROOM, a kind of 3-D planetarium, solar systems and star fields, floating in air. He watches one, his back to the door. KHARRUS (female, young, sharp) enters.

This is the "control room" of the Shadow Kin. As such it's a less ragged, more organised space than the rest of the Real m

KHARRUS

Majesty.

CORAKI NUS

(on a display of stars)
How many worlds have I made submit?
How much light have I extinguished with shadow?

KHARRUS

(knowing the answer) Never enough.

CORAKI NUS
(immediate echo)
Never enough. We are a trick. We are an accident.

We should never have been born in a universe of light.
(contained fury)
But we

KHARRUS

Yes, Majesty.

CORAKI NUS
We are what is underneath the stars
that look down upon us. We are what
the feet of the enlightened races

He comically drops all pretence, turns to her, sees her face.

What's wrong?

She steps out of the way of the locker, showing him the smoki ng hol e.

APRI L

Something weird is happening.

Beat, then he looks straight into her eyes.

Wanna skip Quill's class?

She nods, vigorously.

CUT TO.

18 INT. / EXT. RAM'S CAR /STREET - DAY 9, 11:11 18

They're parked down the street from the school. Ram and April sit in the front seats.

APRI L

You're the only person in school who has a car.

RAM

My mum sells them We get deals.

April says nothing.

RAM (CONT'D)
You're sure it's the Shadow Kin?

APRI L

(nods)

went off on some weird pro-tangF17 .i - 0.195 Tc 0.02 Twos Tj 1090.48 Tm - 0.201 Tc 0.04

RAM You kissed me.

APRIL
I thought we both needed it at the time.

RAM (CONT'D)

(angry) That 's your dad.

CUT TO:

INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, MISS QUILL'S CLASSROOM - DAY 9, 11:1139 * 19

> The class watches a VIDEO about ASTROPHYSICS. In the darkness, Quill is having a furious whispered conversation with Charlie, Tanya surreptitiously looking on.

> > QUI LL

You want me to

CHARLI E

Parents' Evening. Apparently quite common.

QUI LL

I'm not going to go to your other teachers, hat in hand, and ask after your

CHARLI E

Your job is to protect me. This protects my future prospects.

QUI LL

They aren't even supposed to know we live together.

CHARLI E

You'll figure something out. You're always going on about how clever you are.

Quill's eyes narrow.

QUI LL

If we had ever met on the bat t l ef i el d-

CHARLI E

But we didn't and we won't. Do this. I command it.

Quill, stuck, returns furiously to her desk. Tanya watches.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE RAM'S CAR - DAY 9, 11:14 20 *

April slams the door of Ram's car as she exits.

APRI L

How dare you? How dare you just... show up?

HUW

You won't answer my calls, April. Or respond to-

APRI L

You're breaking the law. You're not supposed to contact me except by letter and even then-

HUW

I just... April, I-

RAM (O. S.)

Maybe you shoul'd leave.

Ram's got out of the car. Looks threat ening.

RAM (CONT'D)

Maybe you shoul'd leavé

APRI L

I can handle this, Ram

(to her dad)
Because that's the thing you don't know. You expect me to be afraid of you-

HUW

, I just-

APRI L

But I'm . You have no idea of the things I've seen.

HUW

I wanted to

APRI L

For trying to kill us? For paralysing Mum?

There's a FLASH OF SHADOW in her HANDS. Ram sees it.

RAM

April?

April turns to him surprisingly furious.

APRI L

I said, LEAVE IT, RAM

Her eyes flash RED, just like Corakinus.

RAM

Your

She looks back at him confused. Huw carries on, oblivious.

HUW

I miss my daughter. I miss my

> At this, April hardens. She looks at her dad. It's scary, this is an April we haven't seen.

> > APRI L

(voi ce deep, threat ening) Maybe you should run.

And she EXTENDS the SHADOW SWORDS from each hand.

RAM

Ch, no way!

But April still stares at Huw, who backs away, then faster, then he RUNS OFF.

The Shadow Swords disappear again. April returns to herself, panting, teary. She turns to Ram

APRI L

(crying)

Slight pause, as we wonder how he'll react, but then he moves to her quickly, hugging her tight.

RAM

It's okay, it's okay-

DOROTHEA (O.S.)
(oddly cheerful)
I'm fairly certain this isn't school grounds.

Ram and April part, see Dorothea standing there, smiling.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)
I believe you both should be in
M ss Quill's Physics lesson right
now, correct?

APRIL (beat, wipes eyes) I'm sorry, who are you?

DOROTHEA

Your new Headt eacher.

Both Ram and April stiffen. They're busted. Ram glances where Huw ran, wondering what she's seen.

RAM

We were just-

DOROTHEA

Helping out a student who's under the weather. It's good citizenship, Mr Singh. Please, take Mss MacLean home. Hope you feel better and we'll see you tomorrow.

Smiles, exits. Ram and April are frozen.

RAM

Alien?

APRIL How did she know what classes we're in on like her first day?

RAM

APRIL (turns to him) Can you take me home?

RAM

Absol ut el y.

CUT TO.

21 EXT. STREET ROUND THE CORNER - DAY 9, 11:16

21

Around the corner, Dorothea watches them drive off, still smiling. Then a PETAL, like the one we saw earlier, drifts by. She watches it until it falls onto the PAVEMENT.

C/U as she picks it u dy 0 V

CHARLI E

This is why I didn't tell you. The responsibility is... heavy.

MATTEUSZ

(interrupting) How does it work?

Angle on - Quill approaching from behind, about to speak but-

Angle on - Charlie and Matteusz.

CHARLI E

It only responds to the Rhodian leader. I... activate it... And each soul finds one of the people you wish to... eliminate.

MATTEUSZ

Do not use that word. That's a word very bad governments use.

CHARLI E

Fine. To . And each Rhodian soul . . . burns that other soul out of existence.

MATTEUSZ

And there are billions in the Cabinet. So you could kill billions more.

Angle on - Quill's face, open in shock as she overhears.

Angle on - Charlie and Matteusz again.

CHARLI E

(more energy)
But only . They burn themselves out while doing it. The whole idea is that it's a single use weapon you never have to .

MATTEUSZ

And you never would. Destroy a planet. All those lives.

CHARLI E

(qui et | y) pl anet was destroyed.

MATTEUSZ

So you would become like your destroyers?
(stands)
It's not just a weapon for killing a planet, then. It's suicide for its user, too. Because who are you after you do that? Who do you become?

He leaves.

CHARLIE Matteusz. Matteusz!

Gets up to go after him..

Angle on - $\operatorname{Quill},\ \operatorname{still}\ \operatorname{standing}\ \operatorname{there},\ \operatorname{her}\ \operatorname{mouth}\ \operatorname{open}\ \operatorname{in}\ \operatorname{rage}\ \operatorname{and}\ \operatorname{astoni}\ \operatorname{shment}\ .$

His anchor is going to lead us right to it.

		CUT TO:	
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		CUT TO:	

27 INT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 13:10 27 *
April enters, hand over her heart, Ram hovers at the door.

28 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9 28 *

Kharrus looks at our solar system, her back to Corakinus.

KHARRUS

...the heart has to slip through a tear in space and time in order to beat. It's only a matter of tracking it properly.

CORAKI NUS

Your work impresses, Kharrus. I-

Stops. Puts his hand on his heart, surprised. Kharrus turns.

KHARRUS

Maj est y?

CUT TO:

INT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 13:12

29

April and Ram are close now, for eheads nearly together.

RAM

We need to tell the others. We can help you, April. I'm sure we can.

APRI L

I know, just... I'm fright ened, Ram

RAM

I've been fright ened nonst op for the last month. I actually found a grey hair yest erday.

APRI L

You know that war? The one I told you I fought every day?

RAM

Against the world breaking.

APRI L

...l' m l osi ng.

RAM

Yeah, but the difference now is, you're not fighting it alone.

APRI L

Is that a line?

RAM

Is that a... what? No, April, I-

She kisses him

CUT TO:

30 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9

Corakinus' hand is still on his heart. Kharrus moves to him

KHARRUS

Are you unwell, Majesty? Should I-

He stops her by grabbing her wrist, almost as if he did it involuntarily. His RED EYES becoming noticeably BRIGHTER.

KHARRUS (CONT'D) (surprised, pleased)
Majesty, you are showing the colours of the mate.

He looks at her, surprised. She raises a hand, strikes it across his cheek-

When he turns his head back, DIRTY TARRY BLUE BLOOD oozes from the scratches. He takes it in his stride, it's clearly a mating prelude.

Her eyes brighten as well.

CUT TO:

31 INT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 13:15

31

30

April raises a hand. Is she going to strike Ramlike Kharrus struck Corakinus? But she puts it in his hair instead and kisses him again. He kisses her back. Then pulls away.

RAM

April, is this... really okay?

APRI L

(shrugs)
I'm afraid all the time. And you...
(teary smile)
You make me feel safe. Because
you've seen everything I have.

RAM

You make me feel safe, too. Isn't that weird? I always thought you were just some Try Hard who-

APRIL Maybe less talking, Ram

RAM Sorry, it's just...

Can't find the words. She kisses him again.

RAM (CONT'D)
I'm still grieving Rachel.

APRIL I'm still grieving my heart.

RAM

Is it wrong to still want to feel

April shakes her head. They've given each other permission. The kisses get more serious.

CUT TO:

32 32 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9

Corakinus is SMASHED ACROSS THE FACE by Kharrus. He falls. She's on him punching him again. She straddles him raising a SHADOW SWORD in her hand and <u>PIERCING HIM THROUGH THE SHOULDER</u>, pinning him to the floor-

Then she hesitates.

KHARRUS

Mai est v?

He looks back at her, slightly confused.

KHARRUS (CONT'D)

Are you... not intò it?

CORAKI NUS

No, no, it's... You do it well.

She removes her sword from his shoulder.

KHARRUS

You're regretting it. (hurt but loyal)
As is the King's prerogative.

CORAKI NUS

That is it. I just... (confused) I find myself wishing to

Kharrus is horrified, repulsed, but this is her King talking.

you.

KHARRUS

If ... that's what you're into-

Coraki nus registers her disgust, quickly adjusts.

CORAKI NUS

Continue with the swordplay.

Kharrus, happy again, stabs him once more.

CUT TO:

33 INT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 13:25 33

April and Ramin bed together, under the covers, making love. April is on top.

She sees that Ramis crying softly, tears coming down his cheeks, almost unaware. She rubs them away with her fingers.

APRI L

Yeah, me, too.

RAM

(concerned)
I'm not hurting you, am I?

APRI L

No. Am I hurting ?

RAM

The... The opposite, I think.

They kiss. It's almost unbearably tender.

CUT TO:

INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9 34

Corakinus falls on the floor with a CRUNT, completely spent.

KHARRUS

I trust your Majesty is satisfied.

She steps back, breathing heavy, still holding two swords.

CORAKI NUS

(from the floor) I don't suppose...

She waits, intrigued.

CORAKI NUS (CONT'D)

There could be a moment of . . . cuddling?

Kharrus is shocked.

CUT TO:

35 INT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 13:30 35

April and Ram cuddle tenderly under the sheets. April smiles.

APRI L

You're shaking again.

RAM

It's been a weird month.

APRI L

Yeah, I-

She turns to him, but stops, taking a HUGE gasp, her eyes going wide and bright RED- $\,$

CUT TO.

36 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9 36

Kharrus has her hands INSIDE the chest of Corakinus, like Rannus did in the opening. He's bearing it with great pain.

Kharrus calls out and removes her hands, blue light flying off them The shadow holes in Corakinus' chest heal up.

KHARRUS It is no good, Majesty.

CORAKI NUS

She is... me somehow. Rannus' anchor has made the

(panicked, to Jackie)
How dit go with your manager?

CUT TO:

38 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, FRONT - DAY 9, 13:38

38

Charlie, Matteusz and Tanya walk outside the front of the school. Matteusz looks at all the strange PETALS, blowing by their feet.

MATTEUSZ

Isn't this the wrong season for blooming?

CHARLI E

(distracted)
I don't know. I have yet to see seasons here.

Matteusz suddenly hisses and drops the petal. A DROP OF BLOOD on his fingertip. He blinks, unsure what's happened.

TANYA

(suddenly)
I don't think I like how you order
M ss Quill around.

CHARLI E

... what ?

TANYA

It's a punishment, isn't it? But she's meant to protect you, not be your servant.

(pointedly)
Or your slave.

CHARLI E

(not getting it)
I ! I don't know how many times
I've had this conversation with her
myself-

TANYA

My dad used to say most people don't set out to be monsters. They start by getting a little taste for it. They like it, so they taste some more. Then before they know it-

CHARLI E

I'm not being monstrous. I'm being . Please don't question the morality of my culture.

MATTEUSZ (to himself, finger in his mouth)

MATTEUSZ (CONT'D)

Yes, he doesn't like it when you do

Charlie gives him a look.

TANYA

If the morality of your culture keeps on looking like , then you're not really going to stop me asking questions-

CHARLI E

You don't know what she did. You don't know what we suffered. And my command over the alien in her head may be the only thing keeping all of us alive.

TANYA

But she's helping us . And the world where you both may have done things is gone-

CHARLI E

Mss Quill is my business and I'll thank you to stay out of it.

TANYA

Ch, I really don't think you want to talk to me like again,

MATTEUSZ

(looking down)
There something weird here.

CHARLI E

(annoyed) With flower petals?

He turns. We pull back-

The petals ARE everywhere. Drifted into every corner on the street, more tumbling in the wind. All of a sudden, there's a noticeable number.

CUT TO:

39 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 13:45 39

Dorothea looks into a POTPOURRI BOWL on her desk, a concerned frown on her face. The bowl is about HALF FULL of clean/new pet als.

We pull back. Formerly Mr Armitage's office, it's been modernised by Dorothea: elegant panelled desk, softer wall-furnishings. Like the office of an expensive therapist. The one oddity is a Victorian collection of BEETLES in display cases.

Knock on the door. Quill is already coming in:

QUI LL

What do you want? There's something urgent I need to check at home-

DOROTHEA

I assume you'll be performing the Parent Teacher duties at Parents' Evening for Charlie?
(looks at a file)
Charlie..., is it?

She sits behind her desk, still friendly.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)
Don't see too many Smiths these
days. It's kind of like "John".
Have you noticed no one under the
age of 35 is called John anymore?

Quill is speechless, surprised at this greeting.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D) Please sit. I won't bite.

Still confused, Quill takes a seat across the desk.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)

It interesting, though. The work I had to do to track down story.

She takes out a rather THICK FILE. Quill looks alarmed.

CUT TO:

40 INT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S KITCHEN - DAY 9, 13:50

40

April sits, dressed, embarrassed, at a kitchen chair. Ram sits an awkward distance apart. Jackie looks at them sternly.

JACKIE
(to April)
Does he at least have a name?

RAM

It's Ram

JACKIE Iwasn't asking

APRIL Mum, it's okay-

JACKI E

Really? You should still be on your way home from school. Did they give you a note for this?

APRIL We didn't... plan itJACKIE
"It just happened." You know better than to use an excuse like that.

APRI L

Mum

JACKI E Do I even need to if you used

pr ot ect i on?

April is too horrified to answer. Unfortunately, Ramisn't.

RAM It's okay, I had some condoms-

APRI L

(shocked)

RAM

Well, I didn't want her to think bad of you!

Beat, at the ridiculousness of this.

RAM (CONT'D) (to Jackie) She saw her dad.

APRI L

(shocked again)

RAM

Tanya? April's in trouble.

Pull focus to see HUW, waiting across the street (unseen by Ram), as if he's been wondering how to approach. He sees Ram leaving. Then he approaches the gate...

..kicking through a small drift of FLOWER PETALS. They tumble away, brushing away a number of the petals. He doesn't look back.

We track around to see that he's accidentally uncovered a BLOODY, HALF-EATEN SQUI RREL...

CUT TO:

INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 13:58 42 * 42

Dorothea looks up from the file, still friendly.

DOROTHEA

of this fascinating information and the only thing I keep thinking to myself is that you don't really like an

> QUI LL (nervous, what's going ?)

Everyone calls me Quill. Look, is this about the Parents' Evening thing, because-

DOROTHEA

(sips tea) This isn't the 1950s. Trust me when I say I've seen more unusual housing arrangements than yours and Charlie's. Quardianship is quite common.

QUI LL (surprised) Well, yes, I-

DOROTHEA

Slightly trickier with Matteusz-

Quill is even more surprised.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)
But he's 17 and that's borderline on his own wishes versus those of his parents. And if they threw him out -

QUI LL (quite alarmed now) How do you these things? DOROTHEA

The Governors like a well-run school.

QUI LL

(beat, suspicious)
I've seen some of the resources of the Governors.

DOROTHEA

(just smiles)

Yes, 'robots are rather expensive. Not going to be easy to replace.

QUI LL

What do you think you're doing on me-

DOROTHEA

Tell me, Mss Quill, have you seen any squirrels today?

Again, Mss Quill is speechless, this time with bewilderment.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)

Or birds? Heard any birdsong this morning?

QUI LL

... are you quite insane?

DOROTHEA

(smiles again)

And what might you make of this?

Flashes her eyes to the potpourri bowl-

Which is NOW OVERFLOWING WITH PETALS.

CUT TO:

43 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, FRONT - DAY 9, 14:00

43

Charlie and Matteusz look at the Petals at their feet (there are more of them). Tanya is on the phone in the background.

MATTEUSZ

Are there... of them than a moment ago?

CHARLI E

Why are you giving me such a hard time? It's the duty of the Prince to save his people-

MATTEUSZ

"Duty" is another word of bad governments. And how is this ? They are souls - they have

Stops on Charlie's look.

MATTEUSZ (CONT'D)

What? What are you not telling me?

CHARLI E

(very reluctant)
It's... It's a children's story.
That in the hands of the right
person, the Cabinet isn't just a
weapon... It's a way to bring them
all back.

MATTEUSZ

... what ?

CHARLI E

In the hands of a...
(embarrassed)
Hero, the souls take over the bodies instead of burning them All of Rhodia is reborn in a different shape.

MATTEUSZ

(beat)

An entire race is still killed.

CHARLI E

I know-

MATTEUSZ

And you think you are this ?

CHARLI E

No! I told you, it's a children's story, a way of believing in heaven-

MATTEUSZ

So you

believe it-

CHARLI E

(angry)
It's ! It's stupid and childish and no adult Rhodian ever believed it but it's hope. Of course I'm not the , but if I can keep the Cabinet safe, then maybe, one day...

(angui shed)

I lost . Please don't take the hope away from me, too.

Matteusz can't answer. Tanya ends the call and joins them

TANYA

Ram says the Shadow Kin is taking over April's body.

(frowns)

His voice was funny. I think they may have had sex.

CHARLI E Ram and the Shadow Kin?

TANYA (rolls her eyes) Come on.

She hurries off. Charlie and Matteusz follow her.

CUT TO:

INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9 44 *
Corakinus waits for Kharrus to put her hands in his chest.

KHARRUS Rannus hoped the anchor on the

HUW

She threatened me today. With swords.

JACKI E

Well, what do you expect-(stops)

Swor ds?

APRI L

...they're... more like scimitars.

CUT TO:

48 48 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9

As before. The intensity is increasing. Corakinus looks into the eyes of Kharrus.

CORAKI NUS

Should you succeed, there is room on the throne by my side.

KHARRUS

You honour me, Majesty.

CORAKI NUS

Yes. I do.

Kharrus suddenly rises.

KHARRUS

Now!

She PLUNGES her hands into Corakinus' chest.

CUT TO:

49 INT/EXT. APRIL'S KITCHEN/BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 14:33 49

Jackie, still concerned, on April.

JACKI E

I'm waiting for an answer-

April suddenly SCREAMS and falls to the ground.

JACKIE (CONT'D) April? April!

Huw rushes forward to help. Jackie moves outside, elbows him hard to push him back, but otherwise doesn't even look at hi m

April rolls over, looks up at her mother-

EYES BLAZING RED.

APRI L

No! No-

CUT TO:

50 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9 50

Kharrus' hands are deep in Corakinus' chest. He is clearly in agony but trying to be kingly about it.

KHARRUS

I can feel it. I can feel

She glances up into his eyes. He meets hers and SMASHES a rock surface with his fist.

CUT TO:

51 EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 14:36

51

April yells again and rolls forward. With an angry FIST, she SMASHES a heavy stone garden feature to bits. Just like Corakinus.

APRIL He's trying to take it.

JACKI E

Who's trying to do what? (Iooks at Huw) Your father?

HUW

What? I'm not-

April suddenly rises to her feet. She looks at Huw. SHADOW SWORDS extend from both hands.

CUT TO:

52 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9 52 *

As before, but there's a problem

KHARRUS

She is fighting it.

CORAKI NUS

She is a You are a warrior of the Shadow Kin. You will .

KHARRUS

Yes, Majesty.

Grips harder. He yells again.

53 *

EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 14:39

Huw backs away. Jackie watches in horror as April takes a step forward, swords in hand-

But April screams again, stumbling a little.

53

APRIL No. No, you can't have it!

She swings both swords, as if possibly attacking Huw-

He I eaps out of the way and her swords come in contact with the back gate- $\,$

CUT TO.

54 EXT. SIDE LANE OUTSIDE APRIL'S FLAT - DAY 9, 14:40 54 *
The back gate BLASTS off April's house-

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET LEADING TO APRIL'S FLAT - DAY CUT TO:

CORAKI NUS

(ast oni shed) It isn't working. She is... imposing her

Kharrus Looks worried.

CUT TO:

58 EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 14:43 58

April advances on Huw.

APRI L

You tried to take everything from us.

HUW

(scared but admitting it)
I did. And I can never apologise enough-

APRIL You should still be in

JACKI E

April, please!

APRI L

(to Huw) You put her in that

HUW

I know, but honey-

Furious, she lashes out with the sword and CUTS him across the upper arm/shoulder. He falls to the ground in front of the blasted-out gate, shocked, bleeding, but not seriously.

apri L DON'T TREAT ME LIKE YOUR DAUGHTER!

She stands over him, both swords blazing.

CUT TO:

59 59 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9 As before.

> CORAKI NUS DON'T TREAT ME LIKE YOUR DAUGHTER!

Kharrus I ooks up, alarmed. Coraki nus extends both swords. Kharrus steps back, removing her hands from his chest. He rises over her.

60 EXT. STREET LEADING TO APRIL'S FLAT - DAY 9, 14:44

60

Ramis now running. Getting faster.

CUT TO.

61 EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 14:45

61

Huw, on the floor, slowly pushes back from April.

APRI L

There is thing you did for me,

shout s) STOP MOVI NG

Huw stops. She moves closer to him, standing over him

APRIL (CONT'D)

You made me strong. Because I HAD

STOR. 56 Tm - 0. 1er o49w15oo Tc - 0. 05APRI LFu14e Ra03But . 96 6a 0 162. 96 6

JACKI E

April, what the hell is going on?!

April raises her swords.

CUT TO:

64 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9 64

Coraki nus approaches Kharrus, murder in his eyes, SWORDS out.

KHARRUS

Your Majesty, I have not yet finished-

CORAKI NUS

You have.

He raises his swords like April has.

CORAKINUS (CONT'D)
Her heart is strong. It fights back.
(eyes flare)
Like mine used to.

CUT TO:

65 EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 14:58 65

As before.

APRI L

My heart is strong. It fights back. It always has.

Ram arrives at the gate. Sees what's happening with horror. Steps inside.

RAM

April, no!

She looks up at him savagely.

finish the job?

APRIL
(ferocious)
Why not? He tried to take his life and ours with it. Why shouldn't l

RAM

Because that's not what April would do!

She I ooks up at him shocked.

66 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9 66
Coraki nus pauses over Kharrus.

KHARRUS (fright ened) Majesty, please, if you'd only let me-

Coraki nus raises his swords.

CUT TO:

67 EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 15:00 67
As before.

APRIL
(eyes on Huw, to Ram)
You have no idea what I would do.
You have no idea what I'm capable of.

RAM
I know exactly what you're
of, but you're April because you
not to do it. You told me
you wouldn't let him break you.

APRIL
And I won't.
(to Huw)
I'll break instead.

CUT TO:

68 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9 68
Corakinus still has his swords raised. Kharrus looks alarmed.
But Corakinus is hesitating.

CUT TO:

69 EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 15:01 69

As is April. Standing over Huw.

April! April, please. Don't do this!

April still hesitates.

70

INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9

70 *

As does Corakinus. Kharrus is as horrified as Rannus was.

KHARRUS

You would be

Corakinus looks conflicted-

Then Corakinus is enraged. With a YELL he raises one sword-

?

CUT TO.

RAM

... April?

Takes a step towards her, but she SCREAMS, like Corakinus is screaming. Her chest beginning to glow blue and hot.

APRI L

(to Huw)
You TOOK from us! You took so much!
(heartbroken)
You made me you!

HUW

I'm so sorry-

But April just screams again to shut him up. She looks at Ram, helpless, terrified, furious.

APRI L

(to Ram)
I don't think you can save me.

RAM

April-

Charlie, Tanya and Matteusz arrive at the back gate, out of breath.

TANYA

What's going on?

April suddenly turns to Jackie, sitting in her wheelchair. Her hands begin to glow with the same shadow as Kharrus.

APRI L

(whi spers, to Jackie) Forgive me.

She suddenly steps forward and PLUNGES HER GLOWING HANDS INTO JACKIE'S CHEST-

CUT TO:

76 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9 76

Corakinus stumbles to his knees, calling out in pain as his hands GLOW with BLUE LIGHT-

CUT TO:

77 EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 15:05 77

Jackie screams in agony as April's hands are inside her. The others watch in horror.

RAM

April! What are you

TANYA

Ch. my God.

April pulls her hands out of Jackie with a cry, back into Ram's arms.

Jackie falls from her wheelchair-

CUT TO:

78 78 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9 Coraki nus falls to the ground like April did, collapsing next to the body of Kharrus. No one to catch $\ .$

CUT TO:

79 EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 15:06 79

April, still in Ram's arms, watches Jackie. Jackie rights herself on the ground-

Then bends her leg.

She sees it in shock. Huw watches on, too. She moves it again. Then bends it completely and unbends it. She looks up tŏ April.

JACKI E

What have you done?

She does it to the other leg.

JACKIE (CONT'D) My God, April. What have you

What

you done?

RAM

April suddenly stands, her eyes glowing RED.

APRI L

(horrified) He knows. He's found me!

CUT TO:

80 80 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9

CORAKI NUS (CONT'D)

(to the body of Kharrus) What do you know? You succeeded.

He leaves the room throwing open the door to:

INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, CORAKINUS' INNER SANCTUM - 81 NIGHT 9

The two Shadow Kin soldiers from the opening turn as he enters.

CORAKI NUS

Prepare for War. We are going to her planet. And we are going to kill everyone on it.

CUT TO.

82 EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 15:15

82

April, panicked, grabs her heart.

APRI L

(to the others) Our connection. He's followed the trail. He's coming here!

She looks at all of them, staring at her. Little drifts of flower petals float around them and swirl in the air.

APRIL (CONT'D)

(mar vel l i ng)

He's going to Kill us all.

MATTEUSZ

Okay, seriously, is anyone else looking at these flowers?

April spins round, as if looking for Corakinus

APRI L

I can't let him do that.

Swords grow from each of her hands again.

APRIL (CONT'D)

He knows where I am (getting angrier)

But that means I know where

are, asshole. And how to find you.

RAM

April?

April swings the two swords in a samurai-like movement in front of her.

- RI PPI NG A HOLE I N SPACE/ TI ME.

Beyond is the Realm of the Shadow Kin.

TANYA

Oh, my God.

CHARLI E

That's their place. That's the Shadow Kin real m

RAM

April, what are you doing?

APRI L

(gritting teeth)
I'm going to get my heart back.

RAM

April, no!

But April's already at a run-

She LEAPS through the hole, swords still out.

RAM (CONT'D)

APRI L!

The hole starts to close!

With an alarmed last look at the gang-

RAM (CONT'D)

(desperate, to Tanya)

Tell my dad.

He jumps through the hole, after April-

TANYA

Ram

It closes behind him

Charlie, Tanya and Matteusz stand there, shocked. Jackie and Huw still on the floor. We pull back to see the whirls of flower petals still blowing in.

CUT TO:

83 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 15: 20 83

Angle ON: the flower petals on the Headteacher's desk, in a pile NOW EVEN BIGGER.

DOROTHEA

Inert. No apparent intelligence, nothing we can argue with, just a plant with an appetite. Watch.

She puts one on her fingertip, winces slightly at the bite, then takes it off, showing Quill the blood. She sets the petal on her desk.

C/U on the petal. It her blood-

And then it REPLICATES itself.

Dorothea gestures at the petals.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)

I fed of these an hour ago.

From that single drop of blood, it's doubled, doubled, doubled again.

QUI LL

(comically horrified)
And it's eating the

DOROTHEA

Probably all it can manage at this point. But not for long. We think a single petal slipped in through a crack in space/time just last night and look how it's proliferated.

(leans back)

And i`t's not st opping. (again)

Doubl ed, doubl ed agai n.

QUI LL

(the implications)
So the ones of us it doesn't eat-

DOROTHEA

Will be swamped. Suffocated. Ch, we're quite doomed. (beat)
Unless you help us.

Quill doesn't answer. Dorothea, still friendly, gives her a "Don't give me that" look. She leans forward.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)

Ch, there's a way, trust me.
I've been authorised to say that,
if you help us solve our little
problem here... We may just be able
to help you solve yours.

QUI LL

M ne?

DOROTHEA

How would you like to get that little creature out of your head, once and for all?

(smiles, chin on hands)

How would you like to have your own free will back to do with what ever you please?

Dolly in on a shocked Quill.

Then she smiles.

END CREDITS.