

CLASS

SERIES 1

EPISODE 4

"Co-Owner of a Lonely Heart"

Part 1

By

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Draft 6 – Shooting Script

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1 EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN - ETERNAL NIGHT 8 1 *

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, held down by two LARGE SHADOW KIN GUARDS (practical FX), as an OLDER SHADOW KIN (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-

PLUNGES 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.

RANNUS
There!

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 (who isn't surprised at the punch) slowly looks up from where he's fallen.

RANNUS (CONT'D)
Majesty?

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

ZOOM INTO:

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 - 4 *

NIGHT 8 *

Corakinus glares at Rannus. Rannus' hope falls.

*

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

Corakinus steps down from the throne towards Rannus.

*

CORAKINUS (CONT'D)
Do you believe this an *acceptable*
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.

*

CORAKINUS
Name your failure.

RANNUS
We have been unable to-

*

CORAKINUS
"We"?

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

*

Corakinus raises his sword to Rannus' neck.

*

CORAKINUS
Your replacement?

RANNUS
I thought young Kharrus.

*

CORAKINUS
A promising intellect.

RANNUS
She may succeed where I have not.

CORAKINUS
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
Majesty?

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

CORAKINUS
(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
mercy?

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

Corakinus recognises 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.

CORAKINUS
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 pull back to see her with her hand on her heart, too, staring at the DESK CHAIR in her bedroom.

Pull back farther to see it's been sliced in two in the same diagonal angle as Rannus, 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)
Oh, 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 wheelchair) 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.

JACKIE
He's out.

APRIL
(beat)
I know.

JACKIE
(shocked)
He contacted you?

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

JACKIE
What did he say?

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

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

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

JACKIE
(unhappy)
Yes.
(beat)
All contact is your choice.
Otherwise, he's breaking the court
order.

APRIL
I know.
(looks up)
I'm okay, Mum. Really.

JACKIE
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 palm again. 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 the CABINET OF SOULS, still closed, inert. Curious, he walks over to it, pausing. Just as he's about to open it-

Charlie enters. He looks at Matteusz, worried. But then he looks resigned.

CHARLIE
All right.

CUT TO:

9 **INT. RAM'S HOUSE, RAM'S SITTING ROOM - DAY 9, 08:10** 9 *

RAM finishes packing his bag for school. His mum JANEETA (late 30s, professional) is ready to go to work.

JANEETA
(bright, cheerful)
How's the injury healing?

RAM
(lying)
Better. Still not up to speed.

JANEETA
Oh, don't worry, son, injuries are part of it all. Football will wait.

RAM
(to himself)
Doubt it'll wait *that* long.

She doesn't hear this, gives him an affectionate kiss.

JANEETA
Be good, beta.

RAM
You do know in English that means "second".

She smiles and heads out. Ram finishes with his bag, looks thoughtful for a moment. We see:

--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 with 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 Ram leaves...

CUT TO:

10 EXT. ALIEN DESERT LANDSCAPE - DUSK 9 10 *

The alien desert that we now know to be the inside of the CABINET OF SOULS. The thin FILAMENTS OF LIGHT - the souls of the Rhodia - float in the air, interacting slowly...

We turn to find the OPENING of the Cabinet, as if hanging in space. MATTEUSZ' face peers inside. He and Charlie (O.S.) talk about them.

MATTEUSZ (O.S.)
(beat)
You lied.

CHARLIE (O.S.)
I did.

MATTEUSZ (O.S)
(turns to him)
Because sometimes Princes have to lie?

CHARLIE (O.S.)
Because... these are the souls of every Rhodian who ever lived.
Everyone I ever knew. My family.
People I loved. I'm in charge of protecting them.

CUT TO:

11 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 08:16 11 *

Matteusz sits back, thoughtful, and closes the Cabinet, the lights disappearing from his face.

MATTEUSZ
And because it is not empty, it is also a weapon.

CHARLIE
(beat, agreeing)
It's also a weapon.

MATTEUSZ
One that could destroy entire races. Entire planets.

CHARLIE
Yes.

MATTEUSZ
And you know how to do this?

CHARLIE
(reluctant)
It's the sole responsibility of the Queen and her heir.

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

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

MATTEUSZ
And that's why you didn't say
anything?

CHARLIE
Well, that and the fact that I live
with someone who isn't scared of
guns at all.

CUT TO:

12 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, ATRIUM, MEMORIAL WALL - DAY 9, 08:40** 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.

QUILL
I never even found out what the F
stood for.

DOROTHEA (O.S.)
"Francis".

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

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)
Miss... Quill, I believe?

QUILL
(suspicious)
Yes?

DOROTHEA
(offering her hand)
I've been wanting to meet you.
Dorothea Ames, new Headteacher.

QUILL
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?

QUILL

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,
Miss Quill.

QUILL

Me?

DOROTHEA

The Governors speak highly of you.

QUILL

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.

QUILL

But I've never *met* the Governors.

Dorothea 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!

APRIL

(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.

APRIL
(still distracted)
Yeah, bye. Wait, what? Ram!

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' Evening?

CHARLIE
Princes tend not to.

MATTEUSZ
My parents always come, but this time...

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

CHARLIE
We do 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 want to be better students with the help of our parents?
(off their looks)
What?

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

CHARLIE
I'll just order her to. My future improvement is a kind of personal protection.

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... all human? You know. Down
there?

Matteusz is horrified.

TANYA (CONT'D)
Nothing! Never mind!

Rushes off.

CUT TO:

15 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, MISS SHAH'S CLASSROOM - DAY 9, 09:58** 15 *

April sits at her desk in the History classroom of MISS 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.

CHARLIE
Morning.

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

MISS SHAH
Now, I just know 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.

MISS 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 always
waiting to die.

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

MISS SHAH
What's that, April?

April looks up, challenged. Hesitates, but then:

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

MISS SHAH
Imagination is an act of empathy.
Of course we can't know what it's
like-

APRIL
No, you can't-

MISS SHAH
But we can try to *put* ourselves-

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

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

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

MALE STUDENT 1
That's harsh.

MISS 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
other people *wouldn't* die.

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

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

APRIL
(scoffing)
Fear. 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 died. 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 Realm.

KHARRUS
Majesty.

CORAKINUS
(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.

CORAKINUS
(immediate echo)
Never enough. We are a trick. We
are an accident.
(MORE)

CORAKINUS (CONT'D)

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

KHARRUS

Yes, Majesty.

CORAKINUS

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

(growing angrier, scary)
This war cannot pause because its
leader is sharing his heart with a
little girl!
(turns to her)
Your Majesty is in need of you,
Kharrus.

KHARRUS

And I will fulfill his Majesty's
needs.

CORAKINUS

(intrigued)
Be careful of your promises.

KHARRUS

Rannus was seeking to steal your
heart from the girl, Majesty. It
was a cowardly approach.

*

Corakinus grows his shadow swords, threateningly.

CORAKINUS

Rannus fought at my side on many,
many planets. I am certain you are
about to say something that will
prevent your immediate execution.

*

Kharrus smiles wryly.

CUT TO:

17

INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, CORRIDOR - DAY 9, 11:00

17

*

April is at her locker, struggling to get it open. She
finally gets frustrated and HITS IT with the flat of her hand-

THE LOCK BLOWS OFF, leaving a black smoking hole. She looks
at her hand, at a SMALL BLACK SHADOW there on her palm. She
sighs, desperately.

*

*

Her phone buzzes. She reads it. "Dad". She frowns and
declines the call. She sees Ram walking by, bashfully but
proudly, pretending he's fronted it out, avoiding her glance.

APRIL

Ram?

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

RAM
What's wrong?

She steps out of the way of the locker, showing him the smoking hole.

APRIL
Something weird is happening.

Beat, then he looks straight into her eyes.

RAM
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.

APRIL
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?

APRIL
(nods)
I went off on some weird pro-war tangent in History this morning. That doesn't seem like me at all.

RAM
No. Not even a little.

APRIL
And I haven't even told you what I did to a perfectly innocent chair.

She's upset. He reaches over, takes her hand, holds it.

RAM
We fought them before. We won.

APRIL
Somehow. But people died. People suffered.

They both know she means him. She grips his hand harder.

RAM
You kissed me.

APRIL
I thought we both needed it at the
time.

He keeps looking at her.

APRIL (CONT'D)
If you're asking, then yes.

They kiss. Then he holds her for a moment across the seat.

APRIL (CONT'D)
(in the hug)
I don't want to die, Ram.

He pulls back.

RAM
You're not going to die. We'll tell
the others. We'll tell Quill, she's
the one who had the gun. There'll
be a way to fix this.
(strongly)
You're not going to die.

APRIL
But that's what happens now, isn't
it? We killed the Coach. We killed
that Lankin thing-

RAM
Anyone who wants to kill you is
going to have to come through me.

APRIL
Oh, Ram. They probably will.

She turns, looks out of the windscreen and is SHOCKED.

A MAN stands there, looking back, surprised.

HUW
(through the glass)
April?

APRIL
(barely breathing)
Oh, no.

RAM
What? Who is that?

He looks confused for a moment, then he figures it out.

RAM (CONT'D)
(angry)
That's your dad.

CUT TO:

19 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, MISS QUILL'S CLASSROOM - DAY 9, 11:13 ***

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

QUILL
You want me to *what*?

CHARLIE
Parents' Evening. Apparently quite common.

QUILL
I'm not going to go to your other teachers, hat in hand, and ask after your *well-being*.

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

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

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

Quill's eyes narrow.

QUILL
If we had ever met on the battlefield-

CHARLIE
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.

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

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

APRIL
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 should leave.

Ram's got out of the car. Looks threatening.

RAM (CONT'D)
Maybe you should leave *right now*.

APRIL
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 *don't*, I just-

APRIL
But I'm *not*. You have no idea of
the things I've seen.

HUW
I wanted to *apologise*-

APRIL
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.

APRIL
I said, LEAVE IT, RAM!

Her eyes flash RED, just like Corakinus.

RAM
Your *eyes*.

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

HUW
I miss my daughter. I miss my
family.

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

APRIL
(voice deep, threatening)
Maybe you should run.

And she EXTENDS the SHADOW SWORDS from each hand.

RAM
Oh, 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.

APRIL
(crying)
Ram?

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
Miss Quill's Physics lesson right
now, correct?

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

DOROTHEA
Your new Headteacher.

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 Miss 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
Alien?

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

RAM
Absolutely.

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 up. It's exactly like the one we saw
earlier.

She holds it in her palm, then takes a sharp intake of
breath. She pulls the petal away with two fingernails.

There's a BITE on her palm, bloody, leaving a circle like a
leech bite.

She looks at it. The petal now has a red patterning to it, as
if from her blood. She frowns thoughtfully.

CUT TO:

22 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, CORRIDOR - DAY 9, 12:20

22 *

Quill holds a "Parents' Evening" form in her hand, frowning
at it, quite furious, ignoring the students around her. She
pushes through the DOOR out to-

CUT TO:

23 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, ENTRANCE - DAY 9, 12:21

23 *

The front of Coal Hill. She sees Charlie and Matteusz in the
seating area, talking, other students around, in her way. She
approaches from behind them, at an angle so they can't see
her, ready to raise hell.

Angle on - the seating area, where Charlie and Matteusz have
LUNCH. Matteusz is still reserved, Charlie pleads with him.

CHARLIE
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.

CHARLIE
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.

CHARLIE
Fine. To kill. 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.

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

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

CHARLIE
(quietly)
My planet 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 - Quill, still standing there, her mouth open in rage and astonishment.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, CORAKINUS' BATTLEHOLD - NIGHT²⁴⁹ *

Establish Corakinus' Battlehold on the Shadow Kin world.

25 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9 25 *

Corakinus and Kharrus stand in the middle of the room, observing galaxies and solar systems, zooming in on one: ours.

CORAKINUS
How far?

KHARRUS
Space travel would take 9,000 years. That's why we're looking for the cracks that lead to it instead.

CORAKINUS
Still. You found the system. How?

KHARRUS
The frequency and wavelength at which Your Majesty's heart disappears. It suggests a specific distance. There were 27 systems that fit the criteria, but this is the only one that plausibly matches our experiences there.

CORAKINUS
"Our"? You fought with us?

KHARRUS
Yes, Majesty. I am a warrior in His Majesty's Horde.

Corakinus, sceptically impressed, looks at the solar system again. He puts his hand on his heart.

CORAKINUS
Somewhere there, this heart beats.

KHARRUS
And Rannus did one thing right.
(off his look)
(MORE)

*

KHARRUS (CONT'D)
His anchor is going to lead us
right to it.

CUT TO:

26 OMITTED.

26

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.
April goes to the window, looks out.

RAM
It's different than a vision?

APRIL
Yes. It's like... he's taking me
over. And I can't stop him.

RAM
That's not true. You didn't attack
your dad.

APRIL
(breathes, shocked)
But I wanted to, Ram. I wanted to
kill him.
(looks at her hands)
And I could have. I saw exactly
what I could have done to him.

RAM
(insistent)
But you didn't.

He comes over to her, a little shy.

RAM (CONT'D)
He wants your heart, April. And
that's one battleground where I can
guarantee you, he's going to lose.

APRIL
(sighs)
That was so cheesy, I know I should
be laughing, but I'm still touched.

RAM
I mean it.

She smiles, also shy. Then she takes his hand.

CUT TO:

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

 CORAKINUS

Your work impresses, Kharrus. I-

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

 KHARRUS

Majesty?

CUT TO:

29 **INT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 13:12** 29 *

April and Ram are close now, foreheads nearly together.

 RAM

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

 APRIL

I know, just... I'm frightened,
Ram.

 RAM

I've been frightened nonstop for
the last month. I actually found a
grey hair yesterday.

 APRIL

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

 RAM

Against the world breaking.

 APRIL

...I'm losing.

 RAM

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

 APRIL

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** 30 *

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 *

April raises a hand. Is she going to strike Ram like 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?

 APRIL
 (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
safe?

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

CUT TO:

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

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 PIERCING HIM THROUGH THE
SHOULDER, pinning him to the floor-

Then she hesitates.

KHARRUS
Majesty?

He looks back at her, slightly confused.

KHARRUS (CONT'D)
Are you... not into it?

CORAKINUS
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.

CORAKINUS
That is *not* it. I just...
(confused)
I find myself wishing to *kiss* you.

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

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

Corakinus registers her disgust, quickly adjusts.

CORAKINUS
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 Ram in bed together, under the covers, making love.
April is on top.

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

APRIL
Yeah, me, too.

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

APRIL
No. Am I hurting you?

RAM
The... The opposite, I think.

They kiss. It's almost unbearably tender.

CUT TO:

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

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

KHARRUS
I trust your Majesty is satisfied.

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

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

She waits, intrigued.

CORAKINUS (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.

APRIL
You're shaking again.

RAM
It's been a weird month.

APRIL
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.

CORAKINUS
She is... *influencing* me somehow.
Rannus' anchor has made the connection stronger. I will not have it!

KHARRUS
But the heart is not *injured*. There is nothing to heal.

He pushes her away, almost violently. Then he takes a breath, then another, calming down.

CORAKINUS
It's merely not the heart of a Shadow Kin.

He looks at her, expectant.

KHARRUS
I may have a solution, Majesty.

CUT TO:

37 **INT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 13:35** 37 *

April leans off the bed, wrapped in a sheet, her eyes going back to normal. Ram - also only covering his modesty with the sheet - comforts her.

APRIL
(gasping)
I think it's... I think it's passed.

RAM
Okay, but that's it. I'm calling the others right now-

He starts to rise, but at exactly the same moment, April's bedroom door opens. Jackie rolls in-

And stops shocked. Everyone stares at everyone else.

APRIL
(panicked, to Jackie)
How'd it 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?

CHARLIE
(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
Miss Quill around.

CHARLIE
...what?

TANYA
It's a punishment, isn't it? But
she's meant to protect you, not be
your servant.
(pointedly)
Or your slave.

CHARLIE
(not getting it)
I know! 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-

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

MATTEUSZ
(to himself, finger in his
mouth)
(MORE)

MATTEUSZ (CONT'D)

Yes, he doesn't like it when you do
that.

Charlie gives him a look.

TANYA

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

CHARLIE

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 *here*. And the
world where you both may have done
things is gone-

*

CHARLIE

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

TANYA

Oh, I really don't think you want
to talk to me like *royalty* again,
Prince.

MATTEUSZ

(looking down)

There is something weird here.

CHARLIE

(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
petals.

*

*

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:

QUILL

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

DOROTHEA

I assume you'll be performing the Parent and Teacher duties at Parents' Evening for Charlie?

(looks at a file)

Charlie... Smith, 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 *is* interesting, though. The work
I had to do to track down *your*
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
I wasn't asking you.

Mum, it's okay - APRIL

JACKIE

APRIL
We didn't plan it-

JACKIE
"It just happened." You know better
than to use an excuse like that.

APRIL
Mum–

JACKIE
Do I even need to ask if you used
protection?

April is too horrified to answer. Unfortunately, Ram isn't.

RAM
It's okay, I had some condoms–

APRIL
(shocked)
Ram!

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.

APRIL
(shocked again)
Ram.

RAM
He just showed up at school when he
wasn't supposed to.

Jackie is appalled at this, looks at April.

RAM (CONT'D)
She was upset. I took her home.
(beat, gets up)
That's... all I got to say.

Another awkward beat. Jackie rolls forward a bit to Ram.

JACKIE
Don't let this chair fool you. You
hurt my daughter, I will kill you.

RAM
I won't need killing. April is my
friend.

Emphasises it, truthfully, touchingly. He nods a farewell to
April. She's touched but still embarrassed.

RAM (CONT'D)
(waving his phone)
If you need me.

She nods. Ram exits out the kitchen door to the BACK GARDEN.
They wait until he's out the gate to the side-street, then
Jackie comes rolling up.

JACKIE

What did your dad say? Did he hurt
you? Did he lay a hand on you?

APRIL

Do you really think I'd let him?

JACKIE

I'll kill him-

APRIL

Stop saying that. It's... Just stop
saying that to people.

JACKIE

He's not supposed to come near you.

APRIL

He said he wanted to apologise.

JACKIE

He wants to get rid of his burden.

He wants to give it to us.

(rolls away)

I'm calling the Police.

APRIL

Mum, just leave it.

JACKIE

Leave it?! What is going on today?
You've never even mentioned that
boy's name to me, April-

APRIL

We've... got stuff in common.

JACKIE

I'll bet that's what he says.

APRIL

God, Mum, he's not Dad!

JACKIE

(deflates)

Oh, sweetie. Neither was your dad,
at first.

CUT TO:

41

EXT. SIDE LANE OUTSIDE APRIL'S FLAT - DAY 9, 13:54

41

*

Ram looks at the back gate, wondering if he should go back.
He decides against it and moves on, dialling on his phone.

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 SQUIRREL...

CUT TO:

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

Dorothea looks up from the file, still friendly.

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

QUILL
(nervous, what's going on?)
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. Guardianship is quite common.

QUILL
(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-

QUILL
(quite alarmed now)
How do you know these things?

DOROTHEA
The Governors like a well-run
school.

QUILL
(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. *

QUILL
What do you think you're doing
spying on me-

DOROTHEA
Tell me, Miss Quill, have you seen
any squirrels today?

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

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)
Or birds? Heard any birdsong this
morning?

QUILL
...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... more of them than a
moment ago?

CHARLIE
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
saving? They are souls - they have
already lived their lives...

Stops on Charlie's look.

MATTEUSZ (CONT'D)
What? What else are you not telling
me?

CHARLIE
(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?

CHARLIE
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.

CHARLIE
I know–

MATTEUSZ
And you think you are this hero?

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

MATTEUSZ
So you don't believe it–

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

CHARLIE
Ram and the Shadow Kin?

TANYA
(rolls her eyes)
Come on.

She hurries off. Charlie and Matteusz follow her.

CUT TO:

44 **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
heart alone would be enough to keep
it in this world-

CORAKINUS
(impatient)
I know this, Kharrus-

KHARRUS
But he was too cowardly to go the
extra step. To attach the body of
your Majesty to the anchor as well.

CORAKINUS
(getting it)
So when the heart goes, I go with
it?
(excited)
Or bring her here-

KHARRUS
Or you and the girl might both die
as your shared heart is torn in
two. That was why he hesitated.
That was why he failed.

CORAKINUS
(hard look)
You are here to make sure that
doesn't happen, Kharrus.

KHARRUS
I understand, your Majesty.

CUT TO:

45 **INT/EXT. APRIL'S KITCHEN/BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 14:30** 45 *

April goes to the kitchen door, Jackie coming after her.

JACKIE
We're not finished talking, young
lady.

APRIL

I can't leave it that way with Ram-

She opens the door. HUW IS THERE.

They stare at each other for a second, then April steps across the threshold, as if defending the house from him. Jackie - furious - approaches from inside. Huw speaks around April.

HUW

Jackie, I just want to-

JACKIE

You're not welcome here. You know the rules of the court order-

HUW

I'm here because there's something wrong with our daughter!

CUT TO:

46

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

46

*

As before. Kharrus still has her hands outside of Corakinus' chest, waiting, listening for a rhythm.

KHARRUS

There will be constant injuries to you as I link the anchor to your body while the heart beats in and out of it. I will be constantly healing you, but the pain will be great.

(to Corakinus)

Are you ready?

CORAKINUS

I am.

Kharrus cups her hands. The shadows around them take on the BLUE LIGHT of the anchor.

47

INT/EXT. APRIL'S KITCHEN/BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 14:32

47

*

As before. Jackie still inside, April outside protecting the threshold.

JACKIE

You will not speak to me of my daughter.

HUW

Our daughter.

JACKIE

And that's exactly how you're not going to speak of her.

HUW
She threatened me today. With
swords.

JACKIE
Well, what do you expect-
(stops)
Swords?

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

CUT TO:

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

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

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

KHARRUS
You honour me, Majesty.

CORAKINUS
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.

JACKIE
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 him.

April rolls over, looks up at her mother-

EYES BLAZING RED.

APRIL

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 her.

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.

JACKIE

Who's trying to do what?
(looks 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.

CORAKINUS

She is a girl! You are a warrior of the Shadow Kin. You will beat her.

KHARRUS

Yes, Majesty.

Grips harder. He yells again.

CUT TO:

53 EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 14:39 53 *

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

But April screams again, stumbling a little.

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

She swings both swords, as if possibly attacking Huw-

He leaps 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:

55 EXT. STREET LEADING TO APRIL'S FLAT - DAY 9, 14:40 55 *

Ram is in his car, putting on his SEAT BELT. He hears the blast and turns back to April's house. Gets out of his car. Starts walking. Then faster.

CUT TO:

56 EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 14:41 56 *

April turns towards her father.

APRIL
We don't want you.

JACKIE
April, what's happening?

HUW
Jackie, call an ambulance. Call the Police!

He takes out his phone. April LASHES OUT with the sword at it. He drops it, terrified.

It hits the ground, cut cleanly in two.

CUT TO:

57 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9 57 *

Kharrus still struggling. Corakinus shoots a SHADOW SWORD out of his hand and SLICES a corner off a stone.

CORAKINUS
(astonished)
It isn't working. She is...
imposing her will...

Kharrus looks worried.

CUT TO:

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

58 *

April advances on Huw.

APRIL
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 prison!

JACKIE
April, please!

APRIL
(to Huw)
You put her in that chair!

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.

APRIL
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE YOUR DAUGHTER!

She stands over him, both swords blazing.

CUT TO:

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

59 *

As before.

CORAKINUS
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE YOUR DAUGHTER!

Kharrus looks up, alarmed. Corakinus extends both swords.
Kharrus steps back, removing her hands from his chest. He
rises over her.

CUT TO:

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

Ram is 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.

APRIL
There is *one* thing you did for me,
Dad.
(shouts)
STOP MOVING!

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

APRIL (CONT'D)
You made me strong. Because I HAD
to be.

She lowers the sword point to his chin.

APRIL (CONT'D)
But you are *not* my father anymore.
You are *not* a part of this family.

HUW
I know. I deserve it. I'll leave if
you want me to and never come back.

April hardens, looks fierce. Looks *terrifying*.

APRIL
It's too late for that.

CUT TO:

62 **INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9** 62 *

Corakinus towers over Kharrus. With a savage push, he shoves
her away. She flies backwards.

His chest still glows with what she did to it.

CORAKINUS
You have failed.

CUT TO:

63 **EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 14:56** 63 *

As before.

APRIL
You have failed.

JACKIE
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 ***

Corakinus approaches Kharrus, murder in his eyes, SWORDS out.

KHARRUS
Your Majesty, I have not yet
finished-

CORAKINUS
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.

APRIL
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. *

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

RAM
Because that's not what April would
do!

She looks up at him, shocked.

CUT TO:

66 **INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9** 66 *

Corakinus pauses over Kharrus.

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

Corakinus 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 capable
 of, but you're April because you
 choose not to do it. You told me
 you wouldn't let him break you.

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

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

April still hesitates.

CUT TO:

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 *merciful*?

Corakinus looks conflicted-

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

CUT TO:

71 **EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 15:02** 71 *

April's sword swing matches Corakinus.

 RAM
April, don't!

She brings the sword down-

CUT TO:

72 **INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9** 72 *

Corakinus' sword swings down. Kharrus screams!

CUT TO:

73 **EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 15:03** 73 *

The sword comes down. Huw screams!

CUT TO:

74 **INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9** 74 *

The sword strike COMPLETES. We pull back to see Kharrus, dead, in two pieces on the floor of the throne room, like Rannus (and April's chair) in the first scene. *

Corakinus' chest still glows, hot and blue. He grabs it and starts yelling in an ongoing pain.

CUT TO:

75 **EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 15:04** 75 *

We pull back from April just like we did from Corakinus-

To find the sword tip BURIED in the grass of the lawn, April's arm still holding the hilt. *

Huw is unharmed. Jackie looks on in shock, as does Ram.

RAM
...April?

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

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

HUW
I'm so sorry-

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

APRIL
(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.

APRIL
(whispers, 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 doing? *

TANYA
Oh, 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 **INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, UNIVERSE ROOM - NIGHT 9** 78 *

Corakinus falls to the ground like April did, collapsing next to the body of Kharrus. No one to catch him.

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 to April.

JACKIE
What have you done?

She does it to the other leg.

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

RAM
What have you done?

April suddenly stands, her eyes glowing RED.

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

*

CUT TO:

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

Corakinus calls out, but it's in anger, not pain. Looking furious he stands, hand on his heart.

CORAKINUS
(laughing angrily)
I know where she is!
(grins painfully)
I know the cracks to get to her.
(MORE)

*

CORAKINUS (CONT'D)
(to the body of Kharrus)
What do you know? You succeeded.

He leaves the room, throwing open the door to:

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

CORAKINUS
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.

APRIL
(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)
(marvelling)
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 -

APRIL
I can't let him do that.

Swords grow from each of her hands again.

RAM
April?

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

-RIPPING A HOLE IN SPACE/TIME.

Beyond is the Realm of the Shadow Kin.

TANYA
Oh, my God.

CHARLIE
That's their place. That's the
Shadow Kin realm.

RAM
April, what are you doing?

APRIL
(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)
APRIL!

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 *absorbs* her blood-

And then it **REPLICATES** itself.

Dorothea gestures at the petals.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)
I fed one of these an hour ago.
From that single drop of blood,
it's doubled, doubled, doubled
again.

QUILL
(comically horrified)
And it's eating the *squirrels*?

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 it's not stopping.
(again)
Doubled, doubled, doubled again.

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

DOROTHEA
Will be swamped. Suffocated. Oh,
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)
Oh, there's a way, trust me. And
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.

QUILL
Mine?

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 whatever
you please?

Dolly in on a shocked Quill.

Then she smiles.

END CREDITS.