

# CLASS

**SERIES 1**

**EPISODE 5**

**"Brave-ish Heart"**

**Part 2**

By

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Draft 5 - Shooting Script

26th May 2016

1 EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN - ETERNAL NIGHT 9 1 \*

Same opening as previous episode: 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, but this time, long before we reach it, we DUCK DOWN into:

CUT TO:

2 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, ROCK LABYRINTH - NIGHT 9 2 \*

A labyrinth, shadow and smoke rising everywhere, but otherwise empty of apparent life-

Until RAM bursts past, running as fast as he can, a terrified look on his face, panting, ragged...

CUT TO:

3 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, ROCK LABYRINTH - NIGHT 9 3 \*

He runs through the labyrinth of rocks, towering in ways that aren't earthly. He looks behind-

POV of a monster chasing Ram, gaining on him.

Ram runs, but he won't escape. He looks for a place to hide, ducks into a cleft in the rock-

CUT TO:

4 INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, ROCK LABYRINTH - NIGHT 9 4 \*

Ram slips deeper into the labyrinth-

But it's a dead end.

RAM  
Oh, come on.

The Shadow Kin Soldier arrives. It's got him now. He backs up. It closes on him, monstrous, terrifying, poised to kill-

Ram holds up his hands, about to die-

The Shadow Kin Soldier is suddenly PIERCED from behind, a sword erupting through its front. It disintegrates in shadow.

The shadows dissipate and Ram sees APRIL standing behind it, two long shadow SWORDS in her hands.

APRIL  
(to Ram, harsh)  
You coming?

She stomps back up the labyrinth. After a shocked moment, Ram stumbles after her.

CUT TO:

5

**EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, LIP OF THE CREVASSE - NIGHT 9 5**

\*

They exit out of the labyrinth to an open space, looking out to the horizon. Ram catches up to her. She's scary-looking, fierce, pale.

RAM  
April, God, I've been looking for  
you for ages. Are you okay?

\*  
\*

APRIL  
Do I look okay?

RAM  
We've got to get out of here. We've  
got to-

\*

APRIL  
I'll try to protect you-  
(turns to him)  
But you can't really hope that  
we'll make it out of this alive.

This stops Ram.

RAM  
Out of *what* alive?

She turns again to the horizon. We follow her gaze as...

APRIL  
I'm going to kill the King.

...up on the horizon looms Corakinus' BATTLEHOLD, towering above them in the far distance.

**THEME MUSIC RISES - "Up All Night" by Alex Clare.**

**TITLES.**

6

**EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 15:30**

6 \*  
\*

Charlie, Tanya and Matteusz stand together. Jackie hoists herself into her chair, bending one newly-healed leg. The flower petals swirl in drifts around them.

HUW  
(to our three)  
What the hell just happened?

JACKIE  
(bewildered, furious)  
You stay out of this, Huw.  
(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
(to our three)  
Where is my daughter? How could she do-  
(on her legs)  
This?

No one answers her. There's a FLASH OF BLUE SPARK AND SHADOW from the point on Jackie's chest where April reached in. They note it in shock.

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
That boy, Ram. He said, "Tell my dad." That means you know something. So start talking.

Tanya and Charlie look at each other. Matteusz is still concerned about the petals.

CHARLIE  
Ummmm...

TANYA  
April's sharing her heart with a murdering alien and it looks like she's cut a hole into his world to try and kill him.

Jackie blinks.

TANYA (CONT'D)  
She reached into your chest and healed your spine. I'd let that open up my world-view a little.

JACKIE  
(struggling)  
Okay, I'm just gonna... set that aside for a minute.  
(firmer)  
Do you know how to find April?

CHARLIE  
No. But we know someone who might be able to help.

CUT TO:

7 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 15:33 7 \*

As we left it. Quill has just heard Dorothea's offer.

QUILL  
How could you possibly get this thing out of my head? It's designed to kill me if you try.

DOROTHEA  
We have our ways.

QUILL  
Who's "we"? Are you this "UNIT"?

DOROTHEA

Far more modest than that. When EverUpwardReach took over Coal Hill as an Academy, we installed a new Board of Governors, one focussed on keeping the school safe. Keeping it clear. Keeping it ready.

QUILL

Ready for what?

DOROTHEA

(ignoring the question)

Besides, governments have a way of tripping over themselves. Slightly too concerned with "rights". Terribly inefficient.

QUILL

(realising)

Are you a robot?

DOROTHEA

(laughing)

My goodness gracious, no. Fully human, I assure you. As are a majority of the new Governors.

QUILL

Wait... You didn't help with the Shadow Kin. You didn't help with the really quite hot dragon tattoo guy-

DOROTHEA

We thought we'd see how you did on your own. You proved *remarkably* capable, my dear. But this time, we feel your attention is somewhat diverted from the main threat, so we've come to you directly.

QUILL

And you're offering to give me my free will back?

DOROTHEA

A little like gods, yes. There is a way. It's not without risk.

QUILL

And what exactly do you want me to do for this... privilege?

Dorothea gestures at the overflowing flower petals.

DOROTHEA

What are your thoughts on genocide?

CUT TO:

8 EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, BOTTOM OF A HILL - NIGHT 9 8 \*

April and Ram walk along the bottom of another dark crevasse. Ram looks around a lot more than April.

RAM

So this is another planet? An actual whole other planet?

APRIL

The planet of the Shadow Kin. They call it the Underneath.

RAM

How do you know that? And Underneath what?

APRIL

The rest of the universe.  
(beat, then a crack)  
I can't go back.

RAM

What?

APRIL

That's what you're here for, isn't it? To take me back?

RAM

I don't know *why* I'm here. I just sort of... acted. Without thinking. Kind of a problem with footballers.

APRIL

No, it was sweet.

RAM

(unthrilled)  
"Sweet."

APRIL

You know what I mean. But I can't go back.

RAM

I didn't think I could get back from Rachel. I thought the only thing left was...

(beat)

But I did get back. You helped.

APRIL

That's... sweet as well, but I mean I literally can't go back.

She makes the cutting motion in the air with her sword from the last episode to make her way here. There's a SMALL SPARK, but nothing happens, no gate opens.

APRIL (CONT'D)  
I can't cut a hole back into our own world.

This sinks in for Ram.

APRIL (CONT'D)  
I got us here, Ram. But I can't get us back.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S BACK GARDEN - DAY 9, 15:36 9 \*

Charlie hangs up his phone, looking odd.

CHARLIE  
(to the others)  
She's at the school. Says she needs to talk to me about the flowers...

MATTEUSZ  
(on his oddness)  
What's wrong?

CHARLIE  
She sounded... weird.

MATTEUSZ  
Weird how?

CHARLIE  
...Happy.  
(beat)  
We need to get to the school.

HUW  
I'll drive.

JACKIE  
I will drive. \*

Prepares to go.

TANYA  
(to Charlie)  
I need to find Ram's dad. April's not the only one who's missing.

CUT TO:

10 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 15:38 10 \*

Quill puts her phone away, slowly, frowning at it.

DOROTHEA  
From what we understand, he's the only one who can use the weapon?

DOROTHEA  
He's just going to have to get over  
that.

Dorothea stands, looking for the first time a little concerned. Using a dustpan and brush, she briskly starts sweeping the petals into a bag, trying not to touch them.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)

They don't burn. You can't mulch them, melt them in acid, or poison them with pesticide. Meanwhile, they eat living tissue and multiply. That's it. That's all they do.

She opens her window and tosses out the bag of petals, shutting the window firmly.

DOROTHEA  
I told you, we're efficient. But even we won't find a solution before there are enough of those things to start eating full-sized humans. The Cabinet of Souls is the closest weapon of mass destruction we have to hand.

DOROTHEA  
(surprised)  
"Convince"? Oh, no, my dear Miss Quill. There's no time for convincing. I want you to *force* him.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN - NIGHT 9

11 \*

Ram and April walk across a barren patch. Nothing grows, no Shadow Kin to be seen.

## APRIL

RAM  
Through your heart.

APRIL  
And then... whatever happened back there with my mum...  
(uncomfortable beat)  
The connection was suddenly clearer. Stronger. He could see a path to me and I could see a path to him. But now that I'm here...

RAM  
The path no longer ends in our world, so he can't get to it.

They come around to the mouth of a CAVE.

APRIL  
He *glimpsed* the path to our world, though. And he's going to be able to find it again. So I have to find him first.

RAM  
(on cave)  
He's in there? Man, I just came out of a cave-

APRIL  
The other side. Safer going through than trying to get across open ground.

RAM  
How do you *know* this? Are you hearing his thoughts?

APRIL  
Kinda. It's like... echoes. I just seem to *know* stuff here.

Ram looks around this bleak, monochrome world, caught up by the hopelessness of it.

RAM  
(irritated, resigned)  
And we've got to go through there and kill him?

APRIL  
If I don't stop him, everyone we know will die.

Beat, as he takes this in.

RAM  
(sighs)  
Then, fine, Frodo, let's go hop in the volcano.

She watches him pass.

APRIL  
"Frodo"?

RAM  
(shrugging)  
Some old movie my dad likes.

They enter the CAVE.

CUT TO: \*

12 OMITTED. NOW SCENE 13A. 12 \*

CUT TO: \*

13 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - DAY 9, 15:40 13 \*

Jackie's CAR is parked at the school. Huw, Charlie and Matteusz have got out, as Jackie sets herself in her wheelchair. We get a quick look that the car is hand-operated. There are small drifts of petals now gathering in all the gutters.

Charlie and Matteusz get out. Quill and Dorothea exit the front of the school, Quill looking very determined.

QUILL  
(to Charlie)  
We need to talk.

DOROTHEA  
(on Jackie)  
Mrs MacLean! This is a surprise.

JACKIE  
Who are you? Where's my daughter?

Dorothea and Quill both blink. Jackie turns to Charlie.

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
I thought you said they could help.

Charlie eyes the Headteacher, not sure how much he can say.

CHARLIE  
(to Quill)  
April's gone. I need you to get her back.

QUILL  
Priorities have changed, Prince.  
We're under attack.

CHARLIE  
By who?

HUW (O.S.)  
Ow!

They look around. Huw picks off a petal that's fallen on his CHEEK. It's left blood and a BITE MARK. He drops it, it starts tumbling through the air... \*

DOROTHEA  
Wait. Watch. \*

C/U on the PETAL that bit Huw as it divides, then divides again, faster this time, as it falls to the ground. \*

CHARLIE  
The *flower petals* are attacking us?! \*

DOROTHEA  
They'll bury us by tomorrow morning. But long before then there'll be more than enough to eat us alive. It'll be quite gruesome. \*

QUILL  
(steps to Charlie)  
And you can help us, Prince, because it turns out you've been lying. Oh, my, how you have been lying.

CHARLIE  
(angry)  
I care very little about your opinion of my actions, Quill-

HUW  
Hey!

On Huw, backing away from the petals, seeing how many they are, how threatening they suddenly seem.

HUW (CONT'D)  
Maybe we should all get inside?  
Yeah? That's probably a good idea.

CUT TO:

13A      INT. VARUN'S DENTAL PRACTICE - DAY 9, 15:45      13A      \*

Varun, wearing DENTAL WHITES, talks to a shocked DENTAL ASSISTANT. Varun looks very concerned. \*

VARUN  
No, you'll have to cancel them all.  
I'm sorry, but there's nothing I can do. \*

Pull focus to see Tanya, waiting. Varun looks at her, still speaking to his assistant. \*

VARUN (CONT'D)  
It's my son.

CUT TO:

14           **INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, INSIDE THE CAVE - NIGHT 9**       14       \*

Ram and April move through more unusually balanced stones inside the cave from floor to ceiling, clearly not natural. They pass a LAKE OF ACID, giving off bubbles and steam.

RAM  
What are these? Is that something you... know?

APRIL  
Yeah. The connection is really strong here. We're nearing the tombs of the Kings of the Underneath.

RAM  
Great. Tombs. Always a word you want to hear on a journey.

APRIL  
(on the pillars)  
The Shadow Kin believe they're an evolutionary mistake, a peek at the universe's dark side that it never wanted to have, so they were cast underneath to live in our shadows and be forgotten. They're a little pissed off about that.

RAM  
I noticed.

APRIL  
The pillars remind them that the universe will crush them if they don't defeat it. All of it.

RAM  
Pretty bleak.

APRIL  
Most religions are.

RAM  
Not all. Not mine.

APRIL  
Says the Sikh with the short hair.

RAM  
Ever tried going through airport security in a turban?

April gives a small laugh, the first we've seen in a while.

RAM (CONT'D)  
My dad doesn't like that I don't practice Kesh.

APRIL  
That's the long hair and the beard?

RAM  
Yeah. But, you know, it's modern times. Gotta look sharp.  
(grins)  
I like that my dad does it, though. Tells me where I came from. And I've still got the Kangha he gave me in case I ever change my mind.

April doesn't know what that is.

RAM (CONT'D)  
The comb. Seriously, there are 30 million of us, try to learn something.

But it's friendly. He holds up his wrist, shows her his silver bracelet.

RAM (CONT'D)  
This is the Kara. It reminds me I'm part of a community and that my hands and life should do good works. I've got a Kirpan at home in my room. I'm supposed to have it on me at all times, but you try being young and Asian and carry a knife around London. People get edgy.

APRIL  
(gestures with swords)  
Can't imagine why.

RAM  
They're the five Articles of my Faith. Just because I don't make them obvious doesn't mean they're not important to me.

APRIL  
That's only four.

RAM  
People misunderstand the Kachera. I don't like it being made fun of, even if I don't wear one.

APRIL  
Does all that mean you believe in God?

RAM  
Yeah. Don't you?

APRIL

Even after all this? After all we've seen?

(gestures to the pillars)

I mean, why isn't their view of the universe the right one? Or, you know, Charlie's Cabinet, where all the Rhodian souls go. Isn't that a kind of Heaven?

RAM

Why would you limit God by forcing him to take one form?

APRIL

Why does your God have to be a *him*?

RAM

He doesn't but...

(gathers himself)

We believe the important thing in your life is to do good actions. And I'm as imperfect as everyone else, but if you do a good action, somewhere in the process there's got to be God. Even if you don't have faith or believe there's some dude out there looking after you, isn't doing a good thing, one human to another, the closest we're going to get to God?

\*

APRIL

(sadly)

And what about the bad things we do, one human to another?

RAM

I don't know. I wish I did.

(touches his Kara)

But this makes it a little easier to live in a world like that.

(on the pillars)

Or a universe.

April sighs. Then the swords disappear back into her palms.

APRIL

Is that why you followed me? Doing a good action?

RAM

I followed you because I didn't think you should have to face this alone.

APRIL

I don't need a knight in shining armour. I never have.

RAM

April-

She suddenly gasps, her eyes flaring RED-

CUT TO:

15      **INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, CORAKINUS' INNER SANCTUM - 15**      \*  
          **NIGHT 9**      \*

Corakinus raises his head, eyes flashing red, as if he's been concentrating/trying to find her mentally. He's succeeded.

**CORAKINUS**  
          *There you are.*

CUT TO:

16      **INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, CAVE - NIGHT 9**      16      \*

Ram catches April as she swoons, her eyes clearing. She shakes him off, with some irritation.

**RAM**  
          *What happened? A vision?*

**APRIL**  
          *I must have been looking in his mind too much. He knows where I am.*

CUT TO:

17      **INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, CORAKINUS' INNER SANCTUM - 17**      \*  
          **NIGHT 9**      \*

Corakinus looks up to four 3rd-stage SOLDIERS.      \*

**CORAKINUS**  
          *(rueful chuckle)*  
          *She is coming to me.*  
          *(to the soldiers)*  
          *And I shall face her.*

CUT TO:

18      **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 15:40** 18      \*

Quill enters Dorothea's empty office. Charlie follows her. Matteusz comes in, closing the door.

**CHARLIE**  
          *Who is that woman and why does she know so much-?*

But Quill BACKHANDS him, hard enough to send him to the floor-  
She immediately grabs her skull and screams in pain. Matteusz rushes to help Charlie up.

QUILL  
(gasping, recovering)  
It was worth it.

Charlie holds his cheek in shock.

CHARLIE  
What's the matter with you?

Quill steps forward as if to rush him, quite scary. Matteusz steps between them.

MATTEUSZ  
(firm, tough)  
You will not.

QUILL  
I'll die before I do any real harm,  
remember? A punishment from his  
people. Who were destroyed. A  
punishment only given to *my* people.  
Who were also destroyed. Billions  
of lives. Gone. Murdered.  
(emotional, furious)  
And you, all this time, with the  
power to take our revenge. And *you*.  
*Said. NOTHING!*

CHARLIE  
(angry, defensive)  
The choice isn't yours.

QUILL  
If I didn't have this thing in my  
head-

CHARLIE  
But you do. And you will do what I say.

QUILL  
You have a weapon that would kill them all!

CHARLIE  
And kill every Rhodian soul that *I*  
have stewardship of.

MATTEUSZ  
Plus, the whole mass-murderer  
thing.

She steps closer to him. He doesn't back down.

QUILL  
So it's not enough to make me your  
slave-

CHARLIE  
Prisoner-

CHARLIE

QUILL  
In war.

CHARLIE  
In terrorist acts!

MATTEUSZ  
It's possible this may not be the  
best time-

DOROTHEA (O.S.)

No, it isn't.

They look up. She's entered with Jackie and Huw behind her.

18A EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - ROOFTOP - DAY 9, 15:45 18A \*

They're on the roof. Dorothea is scanning the horizon with BINOCULARS. Charlie and Quill are looking over the edge.

DOROTHEA  
(still looking)  
People in this neighbourhood know  
when they should stay off the  
streets. Even if they don't know  
why they know-  
(stops, sees something)  
There-

She points and hands the binoculars to Charlie. He takes them- \*

18B EXT. STREET SCENE - BINOCULAR VIEW - DAY 9, 15:46 18B \*

What Charlie sees. A FEMALE JOGGER is struggling, PETALS stuck to her legs, BLOOD coming from the wounds.

She falls- \*

CHARLIE (O.S.)  
(whispers)  
Oh, my God.

The petals blow over her, covering her. More blood spills. The woman lies still.

18C      **EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - ROOFTOP - DAY 9, 15:47**      18C      \*

Charlie, shaken a little, hands the binoculars to Quill, who looks on, intrigued.

DOROTHEA

From that one body, the petals on her will double within the hour. Then double again. And again. And again.

Charlie looks out, thinking...

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)

There'll be no point in saving April if she doesn't have a world to come back to.

CUT TO:

19      **EXT. STREET OUTSIDE VARUN'S DENTAL PRACTICE - DAY 9, 15:50** 19      \*

Varun and Tanya walk to Varun's car, which has petals on the WINDSCREEN.

VARUN

I thought this threat had ended. I thought the aliens had gone home.

TANYA

Why did you think that?  
(realising)  
Because that's what he told you.

VARUN

And now you're saying that the threat is ongoing. And somehow four children are supposed to fight it.

They get in.

TANYA

It's not quite like that-

VARUN

It ends. Today it ends.

TANYA

How?

Varun has no answer. Just starts the car. He turns on the wipers to clear the petals and they leave SMEARS of blood. They react in shock.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. DRIFT OF PETALS ON THE ROADSIDE - DAY 9, 15:52 20 \*

The wind from Varun's car blows away the petals, and this time we see a HALF-EATEN, BLOODY HUMAN HAND.

CUT TO:

21 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, CORRIDOR - DAY 9, 15:55 21 \*

An angry Charlie exits with Quill. Dorothea and the parents right behind them.

CHARLIE  
(to Quill)  
I'm not saying I'll use it and we  
don't even know if it will work on  
a plant-

DOROTHEA  
(butting in)  
It ingests living matter. That  
might suggest the tiniest soul  
lives within. And that's what the  
weapon needs as a target, doesn't  
it?

Charlie glares at Quill.

QUILL  
Don't look at me. I didn't tell  
her.

MATTEUSZ  
Venus fly-traps ingest matter. They  
don't have souls.

DOROTHEA  
Oh, you think so, do you?

JACKIE  
(flabbergasted)  
What's going on? Where's April?

DOROTHEA  
This is where the tears in  
space/time are centred. She'll  
almost certainly come out here.

JACKIE  
Are you sure?

DOROTHEA  
(smiling)  
I've got a positive vision.

QUILL  
(to Charlie)  
Come on!

CHARLIE  
(pointing at Dorothea)  
*She's not coming.*

They leave, Matteusz going with him. After a beat, Dorothea makes to leave, too.

JACKIE  
Where are you going?

DOROTHEA  
My vision is positive. It's not stupid.

She follows Charlie and Quill at a distance.

CUT TO:

21A **INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, TOMB ENTRANCE - NIGHT 9** 21A \*

They come to a less rough part of the cave, clearly a CARVED ENTRANCE to a more managed part.

APRIL  
The tombs of the Kings of the Underneath.

They enter.

CUT TO:

22 **INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, CAVE - NIGHT 9** 22 \*

Ram and April carry on through the cave. Tombs are to the right and left, many looking like prison cells with CHARCOAL SHADOW KIN CORPSES (like Kharrus in the last episode) draped about as if they died trying to escape.

RAM  
I'm not sure every King was dead before they put him in a tomb.

APRIL  
Probably not. Even Shadow People would eventually have to figure out how to make a prison to hold them.  
Come on, we're nearly there.

Ram follows her.

RAM  
You're really going to fight him?  
All on your own?

APRIL  
Someone has to. He'll take over the whole world.

RAM  
And you're willing to kill him?  
You're willing to kill? That  
doesn't sound like you-

APRIL  
(frustrated)  
Oh, for god's sake, Ram, how many  
times do I have to tell you? I  
don't need saving!

RAM  
Everybody needs saving! I needed  
saving, and you guys saved me.  
Tanya saved me by just being a  
normal friend. You saved me by...  
well, I mean, you just did. What  
makes you so special that you never  
need saving?

APRIL  
And how are you going to save me?  
I've got the brain and power of a  
King running through me. What  
exactly are you going to  
contribute?

RAM  
Well... I've got really nice pecs.

April, despite herself, smiles.

APRIL  
I want there to be a future, Ram.  
That's why I'm doing this. It's not  
hopeless. Everyone else gets to  
keep going on. If maybe not me... \*

RAM  
I don't know if I could go on  
without you.

APRIL  
(rolling her eyes)  
We've had one shag-

RAM  
It was a really good shag, though.

APRIL  
(smiling again)  
It was all right.

They reach the end of the cave, the mouth at the other end.  
They exit-

CUT TO:

23 EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, CAVE EXIT - NIGHT 9 23 \*

They stop just outside. They're on a plain. Ram looks to their left. On the floor of a valley down below are thousands, millions of Shadow Kin.

RAM  
So that's what we avoided?  
(to April)  
Good call.

But she's looking across the plain. That's where Corakinus' Battlehold rests.

APRIL  
That's where he is.

She raises her swords with a firm look, ready to fight.

CUT TO:

24 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 16:15 24 \*

Charlie and Quill enter, go to the Cabinet of Souls. Matteusz hangs back. Charlie doesn't open it, though.

CHARLIE  
I still don't see how it could work on a plant anyway-

QUILL  
I don't know. And I don't care.

Charlie looks at her, surprised.

QUILL (CONT'D)  
You have a weapon that will kill all the Shadow Kin. Right now.

CHARLIE  
You'd leave this world to its destruction? Our destruction?

QUILL  
A small price to pay for the destruction of our enemies.

CHARLIE  
(amazed)  
You are *heartless*. Like all Quill.

QUILL  
(suddenly furious)  
No, I am *grieving*, Prince! You call me terrorist. You call me *slave*-

CHARLIE  
You call you *slave*-

QUILL

But everything I did, *everything*,  
was for my people. For the proud  
Quill who saw their life taken from  
them by greedy Rhodia.

CHARLIE

*I didn't take anyone's life! I  
would have tried to be a fair  
leader-*

QUILL

You still *can* be. You can be the  
greatest leader your people ever  
had.

CHARLIE

And the *last*.

QUILL

(frustrated)

This planet never ceases to talk  
about their "fate" and their "luck"  
and their "destiny". I believe in  
none of those things. Life starts  
trying to kill you the moment  
you're born. The only proper  
response, the only *sane* one, is to  
fight back at every moment.

CHARLIE

If I use the weapon on the Shadow  
Kin, then this world dies. Everyone  
on it. Including you.

QUILL

The life I'm currently living  
doesn't make me weep at the  
prospect.

DOROTHEA (O.S.)

That wasn't our deal.

Dorothea enters.

CHARLIE

What deal? And *who is this woman?*  
How did she get inside our house?

\*  
\*

DOROTHEA

Charlie, don't listen to her. We  
need your help. We can see what  
kind of person you are.

QUILL

*I'm handling this-*

CHARLIE

Who's "we"?

DOROTHEA  
You've obviously got a good heart.  
You care what happens. Charlie,  
Prince, we need you to save this  
planet.

Beat. Beat. Charlie glances at Matteusz.

CHARLIE  
No.

CUT TO:

25           **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, ATRIUM - DAY 9, 16:17**           25           \*

Jackie sits in the Atrium, Huw looks out of the windows, frustrated. A DRIFT OF FLOWER PETALS outside creeps up against the windows.

\*  
\*  
\*

Jackie tests her leg, unbending it at the knee. It's a struggle, but she moves.

HUW  
That's incredible. If nothing else comes out of this, then that-

JACKIE  
Shut up.  
(beat)  
Why did you come back? Why now?

HUW  
I've been getting help. For several years now, I've been trying to... I know I can never say I'm sorry enough-

JACKIE  
No, you can't.

HUW  
But I am. And that's all I want from you. Just the chance to say that.

JACKIE  
You said before you wanted your family back. You've always been greedy, Huw. Always.

HUW  
(sad, fair cop)  
I know. I do want my family back. But I also know that's never going to happen.

JACKIE  
No. Never.

HUW

But I am sorry. I don't ask for your forgiveness. I know what I did. And I'll be sorry for it until the end of my days.

JACKIE

(tough, sarcastic)

How difficult that will be for you, you poor, poor man-

HUW

Jackie-

Varun and Tanya enter.

TANYA

Where'd everybody go?

VARUN

And where's my son?

CUT TO:

26

**EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, CAVE EXIT - NIGHT 9**

26

\*

April waits, swords out. Ram's about to say something, but the DOORS of the BATTLEHOLD fly open dramatically.

In the distance, Corakinus exits, flanked by the two 3rd-stage Shadow Kin Guards. On either side of the Battlehold, lines of 2nd-stage Shadow Kin Soldiers start to follow their king in formation.

RAM

(horrified)

You're going to fight all that?

April has a moment of real fear, before trying to swallow it.

APRIL

(nervous)

They won't approach.

RAM

They're approaching now.

APRIL

They'll stop. I've got the heart of their King beating in me.

(stops, surprised)

In fact...

Ram looks at her, worried.

RAM

In fact what? In fact what?

But April just looks at the Battlehold.

APRIL  
(still surprised)  
Oh, my. *That's* interesting.

CUT TO:

27 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 16:20 27 \*

As before.

QUILL  
(quiet, furious)  
What did you say?

DOROTHEA  
I don't think you understand the threat that we're under-

CHARLIE  
I understand it perfectly well. I also understand what you don't.  
(re Quill)  
Whatever deal you made, she'll betray it in a second to get what she wants.

QUILL  
Hey.

CHARLIE  
You already *have*!

DOROTHEA  
Yes, of course we know that-

QUILL  
Hey!

DOROTHEA  
But she got me through your door, didn't she? She brought me to the weapon itself.

Dorothea, still smiling, still friendly, reaches into her pocket and pulls out a small HANDGUN.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)  
And believe me, *something* is going to be fired today.

CUT TO:

28 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, ATRIUM - DAY 9, 16:22 28 \*

Another blue spark flashes from Jackie's chest. It catches Tanya's eye. But Jackie is only watching Varun.

JACKIE  
You're the father of the boy who  
led my girl astray.

VARUN  
You must be the mother of the girl  
who tricked my son into this whole  
alien mess.

JACKIE  
That would be after *your* son  
tricked my daughter into *bed*.

TANYA  
(to herself)  
I *knew* it.

VARUN  
All I know is that my son never had  
any trouble until he got involved  
with *your* daughter.

Jackie rolls toward Varun, but Huw steps in front of her.

HUW  
(to Varun)  
Talk about my daughter that way  
again and I will break your neck.

TANYA  
Enough!

They look at her.

TANYA (CONT'D)  
God, do any of you even *know* your  
children? April is the most decent  
person I've ever met! She's also  
brave and kind and cares about what  
happens to the world.

(to Varun)  
And Ram saw his girlfriend murdered  
in front of him and *still* carried  
on living, still cares about his  
future, and still grabbed my ankles  
when the strand alien tried to eat  
me!

Blank stares.

TANYA (CONT'D)  
Does *no* one remember that?

Jackie and Varun still glare at each other.

TANYA (CONT'D)  
Look, they're the best people I  
know. Nobody *tricked* anybody into  
anything.

Beat, as this sinks in.

VARUN  
(still stern)  
So where are they now?

Another BLUE FLASH on Jackie's chest, bigger this time. They all look to her, concerned.

CUT TO:

29 EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, CAVE EXIT - NIGHT 9 29 \*

There's a blue flash in April's chest. She looks surprised.

RAM  
What was that?

APRIL  
I don't know.  
(looks up)  
But it doesn't matter.

Corakinus approaches, then stops on the edge of the hilltop, his army peeling off from him, leaving him alone. This will be one on one. Or two.

RAM  
Just him?

APRIL  
Just him. That's what Kings do.  
(braces herself)  
Here we go.

CUT TO:

30 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 16:24 30 \*

Charlie and Quill both shocked as Dorothea aims the gun.

DOROTHEA  
Only a Rhodian can operate the Cabinet, correct?

No one answers. Calmly, smilingly, Dorothea FIRES THE GUN above their heads.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)  
Correct?

QUILL  
Yes. Not even a Quill can.

CHARLIE  
How do you know all this?

DOROTHEA  
As I said, the Governors are resourceful.

CHARLIE  
You can't force me. I won't be forced.

Dorothea casually turns the gun to aim it at Matteusz.

DOROTHEA  
Really?

CUT TO:

31      **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, ATRIUM - DAY 9, 16:26**

31      \*

The blue light flashes again, rimmed with shadow. Jackie looks startled.

JACKIE  
That was... Oh.

TANYA  
What?

Jackie puts a hand to her chest.

JACKIE  
I swear I felt... April there for a second.

TANYA  
Felt her how?

JACKIE  
Like a tug. A pull.

She looks up at Tanya, frightened.

CUT TO:

32      **EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, HILLTOP - NIGHT 9**

32      \*

Corakinus is nearly there, approaching them across the plain. April, waiting, fights her nerves.

RAM  
What can I do?

APRIL  
Stay out of the way and try not to die.  
(turns to him)  
I actually wouldn't like that.

RAM  
Well, me neither. Listen, April-

APRIL  
Don't say it.

RAM  
Don't say what?

APRIL  
Don't say you love me.

RAM  
What? I wasn't. I've known you like a month.

APRIL  
You were totally about to say it.

RAM  
(he totally was)  
I wasn't.

APRIL  
You were! And I was going to say we've only known each other like a month.

RAM  
I was not!

APRIL  
I know what kind of boy you are, Ram. You've got this heart and it's wonderful and you're not the usual dickhead footballer who wants to shag around and who thinks the perfect girl is someone who doesn't mind that.

RAM  
(inappropriately  
indignant)  
I... shag around!

APRIL  
Ram, I think you're pretty cool. I mean, aside from *that* remark, but can't we just go from there?

He's speechless. She takes the opportunity to kiss him again. They part. Corakinus has reached them and has stopped, appalled by their conversation.

CORAKINUS  
(disgusted)  
Teenagers.

RAM  
(to April)  
Just... Just *win* this fight, okay?

APRIL  
Oh, I'm going to win this fight.  
Don't you worry.

She steps forward-

And stops at the blue light on her chest again.

CUT TO:

33           **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, ATRIUM - DAY 9, 16:28**           33           \*

Jackie and Tanya now face to face, the blue light flashes again on her chest.

                  TANYA  
                  (intense)  
                  What does it feel like?

                  JACKIE  
                  Like electricity. Running through me. But every time it happens-

She gasps as the blue light flashes again. In surprise, she grabs Tanya's hand.

                  JACKIE (CONT'D)  
                  I definitely felt her! She was there!

                  VARUN  
                  Is Ram with her?

                  HUW  
                  Um, guys?

They look at him. He looks out the window. He sees a man in a SUIT in agony on his knees in a pile of petals. Though inert, they stick to him relentlessly, blood seeping everywhere.

                  HUW (CONT'D)  
                  (in shock)  
                  Whatever you're going to do, you might want to hurry.

They start to retreat into the corridor, heading for Dorothea's office.

\*  
\*

CUT TO:

34           **INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 16:30**           34           \*

As before.

                  CHARLIE  
                  (to Dorothea)  
                  If you harm him, I will stand by and watch you die.

                  QUILL  
                  A topic on which I concur. We're using the weapon for something else.

\*

\*

DOROTHEA  
(ignoring her)

You see, Charlie, I don't believe you will make us all pay. I think you're a better person than that.

CHARLIE

You don't know what kind of person I am. Or what's at stake here. If I use it, I will have nothing. The souls of my people-

DOROTHEA

Will have saved the souls of another people.

QUILL

But not destroy the *right* people.

MATTEUSZ

Which would make you as bad as the Shadow Kin-  
(stops, turns to Charlie)  
The Shadow Kin who kill whole species!

His eyes widen, he's realising something. Charlie's looks confused, then gets it, too.

CHARLIE

If we could trick them somehow, get them to attack the petals-

DOROTHEA

And then have the Shadow Kin on earth? I don't think so.

QUILL

Well, then we could use the Cabinet to kill all of them. Everyone's happy!

MATTEUSZ

(ignoring them, to Charlie)  
But how? How could we do it?

CHARLIE

(turning to Quill)  
If we had gone after April like I wanted to in the *first* place-

Another GUN SHOT, right at Matteusz' feet. He jumps back. Dorothea points the gun at his head.

DOROTHEA

That is *not* the plan. There is no time. And believe me when I say I have more than enough bullets in this gun to make this afternoon go exactly how I want.

Charlie gives Matteusz a look. Matteusz nods and surreptitiously takes out his phone, texting with one hand.

Text onscreen: "Shadow kills petals".

\*

CUT TO:

35      **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 16:32** 35      \*

Tanya still holds Jackie's hand. Tanya's phone buzzes. With her free hand, she looks at it, baffled.

Text still onscreen: "Shadow kills petals".

\*

TANYA  
(off phone)  
What?

JACKIE  
Oh, God, I hope April's all right.  
Please be all right-

The blue spark suddenly FLASHES again, MUCH brighter than before-

TANYA  
Whoa.

CUT TO:

36      **EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, HILLTOP - NIGHT 9**

36      \*

April approaches Corakinus, but stops as the blue light flashes MUCH brighter on her chest.

Corakinus gives a sinister laugh.

CORAKINUS  
What have you done to yourself,  
maggot?

RAM  
Don't call her that!

APRIL  
(on Corakinus)  
Not the biggest issue here, Ram!

But she looks troubled, like she can-

CORAKINUS  
You can feel them, can't you? You  
can feel someone on your world.

April looks up to him, sharply. He considers her...

CORAKINUS (CONT'D)  
Your... mother, is it?

APRIL  
You leave her out of this!

CORAKINUS  
(more laughter)  
All the Shadow Kin are linked.  
That's what the Underneath is. It's not a planet. It's pure shadow.  
That's what we're all made of here.  
Once part of it, you're part of it forever. And now you've put our very lifeblood in your *mother*.

April has an "oh, fuck" moment, but then is filled with rage.

APRIL  
I will kill you if you mention her again.

CORAKINUS  
Silly me, I thought you were going to kill me anyway.

APRIL  
(positions swords)  
Then it's time for some *regicide*.

Beat, as neither Ram nor Corakinus know what she means.

APRIL (CONT'D)  
Tanya would've got that.

Then she yells and ATTACKS CORAKINUS for the start of their battle. He defends the blow. Their swords CLASH- \*

CUT TO:

37 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 16:34 37 \*

Charlie's eyes are on Dorothea and Matteusz, her gun still pointed at Matteusz' head.

DOROTHEA  
Look at it this way. Use it on the petals and you save us all. You and Matteusz can live happily ever after.

CHARLIE  
You're wrong. I die either way.

MATTEUSZ  
What?

CHARLIE  
If I use it, I really am lost. I lose all hope. I lose all of Rhodia's past and even the faintest chance for its future.  
(to Matteusz)  
If I use it, I lose you.

DOROTHEA

But if you don't, you lose him, too. It's less of a pickle than you seem to think.

CHARLIE

...I'm lost, Matteusz. I'm lost. And alone.

Matteusz moves closer, Dorothea threatens him, stopping him.

MATTEUSZ

You are *not* alone.

CHARLIE

I lost everything once before. And now I'm going to lose it again-

MATTEUSZ

If you are ever lost, I will find you. I will be your hope.

Dorothea actually wipes away a sincere TEAR.

DOROTHEA

God, young love. So beautiful.

QUILL

Get on with it!

They all look down to the Cabinet.

CUT TO:

38

**EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, HILLTOP - NIGHT 9**

38

\*

A SWORD CLASH as April parries a blow from Corakinus. She isn't faltering. In fact, she seems to be *winning*.

APRIL

(to Corakinus)

Is it true?

CORAKINUS

(fighting back)

Is what true?

APRIL

When a King fights one on one, he has to *win*?

CORAKINUS

(hesitant but fighting)

...Yes.

RAM

What happens if he loses?

APRIL  
(smiling)  
That's the fun part. If I win, I  
become King in his place.  
(to Corakinus)  
Don't I?

She knocks Corakinus down. He's actually afraid. He looks over to a 3rd-Stage Shadow Kin soldier.

CORAKINUS  
Kill the boy.

RAM  
Hey! That's cheating!

April looks up as a 3D Shadow Kin Soldier approaches, then easily puts a sword through its chest. He falls down, dead.. \*

RAM (CONT'D)  
Oh.

CUT TO:

39 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 16:36 39 \*

Jackie SCREAMS in her chair as the blue spark flashes.

JACKIE  
She's being threatened!

TANYA  
(thinking)  
You're connected-  
(gasps)  
That's how she found him.

HUW  
Found who?

TANYA  
(still thinking)  
Maybe she can find us, too.  
(looks at Jackie)  
Can you think of her? Get the  
clearest picture you can in your  
mind?

Jackie, desperate, nods then closes her eyes. The blue light/shadow flares up. Jackie SCREAMS-

CUT TO:

40 EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, HILLTOP - NIGHT 9 40 \*

April is now trying to fight Corakinus while protecting Ram. She has to move so much to keep Ram in front of her that Corakinus is starting to get the upper hand.

Ram sees the blue light/shadow flash on April's chest. She gasps, but carries on fighting Corakinus.

CORAKINUS  
You can't defeat me and keep protecting him.

APRIL  
I've got your power.

CORAKINUS  
Which I match. Obviously.

APRIL  
Yeah, but I'm *really* pissed off.

Attacks him again, knocking him back.

CUT TO:

41      **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 16:38 41 \***

The blue light constantly flashes on Jackie's chest.

JACKIE  
(to Tanya)  
She did this, didn't she? She put a part of herself in me.

TANYA  
I think so. Can you do more?

JACKIE  
(struggling)  
It's... hard.

Huw steps forward.

HUW  
Think of her on her tenth birthday.  
In that blue dress you got her.

Jackie scowls at him.

HUW (CONT'D)  
Just... It was her favourite. She loved it.  
(quieter)  
She loves you.

Beat, then Jackie nods. She closes her eyes again-

The blue light FLARES again from Jackie's chest, HUGE-

CUT TO:

42 EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, HILLTOP - NIGHT 9 42 \*

The blue light flashes again HUGE on April's chest, blinding Corakinus- \*

April knocks him to the ground again, but has her hand on her chest. The Shadow Kin army look restive at their leader falling. \*

APRIL  
Wait...

RAM  
Wait, what?

APRIL  
(wondering)  
I can feel her. I can feel my mum.

Ram looks around.

RAM  
What? Where?

April gets a firm look on her face.

APRIL  
I know where they are!  
(to Ram)  
I can get you back!

RAM  
April, no!

As in the last episode, she spins and CUTS A HOLE IN SPACE/TIME behind her!

Right into Dorothea's office!

43 INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 16:40 43 \*

The tear opens between Jackie and Tanya. In the flash of light, Tanya falls back, then crawls around to the other side-

They all look in the tear, dumbstruck, see April in the slight distance, Corakinus getting up behind her.

VARUN  
Ram? Ram!

Comically, Ram leans his head down and peeks through the rift-

RAM  
(startled)  
Dad?

Varun turns to Huw.

VARUN  
Give me a hand. I'm going in after him.

HUW  
You are?

VARUN  
(shocked, angry)  
What else would a father do?

Huw gets this, nods.

HUW  
(to Jackie)  
Then I'm going to get our daughter.

The light still flashes from Jackie's chest.

JACKIE  
(struggling but managing)  
You goddamn well better.

Varun and Huw start to climb into the rift. We PAN up to the SKYLIGHT. Unseen by our gang, petals are gathering, and there's a crack in the glass...

Angle on: Tanya.

TANYA  
(looking into the rift)  
April, look out!

44

**EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, HILLTOP - NIGHT 9**

44

\*

Corakinus has taken his chance to attack April-

But she spins and clobbers him one, knocking him back. She thrashes at him. And thrashes. He can barely keep up.

APRIL  
(with fury)  
Don't you even look at them.

One final blow and she KNOCKS HIS SWORDS AWAY. He falls.

Surprisingly, she has Corakinus at her mercy now. She puts her sword to his chin.

CORAKINUS  
(grasping at straws)  
We still share our heart. If you kill me, you'll die.

APRIL  
You don't think I know that?  
(tough)  
But here I am.

\*

\*

Corakinus looks afraid at her resolve. April grins in triumph, raises her sword like she did over Huw. \*

HUW (O.S.)  
April?

April, astonished, turns to look-

CUT TO: \*

45 OMITTED. 45 \*

CUT TO: \*

46 EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, HILLTOP - NIGHT 9 46 \*

Huw enters, wonders what to do next. Varun runs to Ram, wrapping him an almost violent hug.

RAM  
Oh, come on, Dad, stuff going on! \*

VARUN  
Are you hurt?

Ram watches the army... who are watching the battle closely. \*

RAM  
Not yet.  
(to April)  
You sure about that you-becoming-King-thing?

APRIL  
(nervous)  
I kinda am, yeah.

CORAKINUS  
They won't be led by a maggot!

APRIL  
Why not? They are now. \*

CUT TO:

47 OMITTED. 47 \*

CUT TO: \*

48 INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 16:45 48 \*

Dorothea still points the gun at Matteusz. Who's looking at the BALCONY- \*

Where petals are now blowing in. \*

DOROTHEA  
(to Charlie)  
It's now or never. We'll be  
overwhelmed in moments.

Charlie looks to Matteusz.

CHARLIE  
Try to still love me.

\*

He presses the symbol on the top of the Cabinet. It glows.

Then the TOP OPENS like a BLOOMING FLOWER. Quill looks on, distraught, fascinated.

Charlie sticks his hands into the LIGHT. It's BLINDING.

CUT TO:

49 EXT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, HILLTOP - NIGHT 9

49 \*

April turns to Ram, her sword on Corakinus' neck.

HUW  
April-

APRIL  
(ignoring him, to Ram)  
You go. Get your dad to safety.

Ram steps away from Varun.

RAM  
You didn't leave me when I faced  
the dragon. You didn't leave me  
when we fought the strandy ghosty  
thing.

## APRIL

HUW  
I'm here to take you back.

APRIL  
(snapping)  
You have no say in this, Dad.

HUW  
Honey, I know what it's like to try  
to take a life.

APRIL  
(furious)  
How *dare* you compare -

HUW  
I meant my own. I was blind. I never actually meant to hurt you or your mother. I only saw myself.

APRIL  
Because you're *selfish*.

HUW  
Yes. Yes, I was. I almost certainly still am.  
(steps forward)  
But you're not.

APRIL  
Will people please stop telling me what I'm like? You don't even *know* me.

RAM  
I do! He's right. You can't do this. Not without it changing you.

APRIL  
I've already changed-

RAM  
Nah, the real April is still there. I see her everywhere.

HUW  
And I'll bet she knows exactly what to do.

APRIL  
You *shut up!*

HUW  
You got great power and the first thing you did was heal your mum. *That's* how you are. Even the worst father in the world can see that.

April hesitates.

HUW (CONT'D)  
I think your friend's right. Be *you* right now. Don't be me.

April looks back again at Corakinus. Beat. She raises her swords-

APRIL  
The defeat is enough, isn't it?  
They've seen me beat you in battle.

Corakinus doesn't answer. She kicks him.

CORAKINUS  
(gritted teeth)  
Yes! That's all it takes.

HUW  
All what takes?

APRIL  
(firm on Corakinus)  
I'm King now.

She looks up at the 3rd-stage Shadow Kin soldiers, still watching from a way away. They bow their heads in obeisance.

APRIL (CONT'D)  
And what do the Shadow Kin always do to a defeated King?

Without hesitation, the two Soldiers approach Corakinus. Corakinus tries to back away on the ground.

CORAKINUS  
No. NO! You can't kill me-

APRIL  
"There is a lifetime of possibilities other than death, maggot." We still need our heart to beat, remember?  
(to the soldiers)  
Lock him in the tombs.

\*  
\*

They grab Corakinus and drag him to the mouth of the cave.

CORAKINUS  
This isn't over! I will-

APRIL  
No! I get the last line.

Corakinus keeps being dragged away, now speechless.

April moves past Huw, looking at him ambiguously, then grabs Ram's hand and jumps back through the tear-

CUT TO:

50 **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 16:47** 50 \*

Both of them landing in the office as a PILE OF PETALS breaks the SKYLIGHT and comes pouring down from ABOVE.

JACKIE  
April!

April hugs her. The blue light connects them. Then fades, job done...

JACKIE (CONT'D)  
Are you okay?

APRIL  
Yeah, you know, just... going through some stuff.

CUT TO:

51      **INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 16:48**      51      \*

Quill moves behind Charlie, fascinated, as he works the Cabinet. He reaches in and pulls up a jade ORB, glowing with light. It's patterned in irregular sections that change to BLOOD RED when he touches them, one by one.

CHARLIE  
"I gather the souls of the Rhodia.  
Now is the hour of our need."

QUILL  
(whispers)  
You could still do it. You could still kill the Shadow Kin.

DOROTHEA  
We would all die.

QUILL  
Everyone dies some day.

But Charlie's eyes are on Matteusz.

CUT TO:

52      **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 16:50**      52      \*

Varun and Huw come out of the rift. It closes behind them, as they all scoot back hurriedly from the petals-

Except for Huw, who's stumbled coming out of the rift and has put his hand down in a pile of petals-

And he begins to SCREAM-

APRIL  
What the hell's going on?

TANYA  
Um, yeah, the world's ending. You were busy. But Matteusz said the shadows might be able to stop it?  
Can you do any shadow stuff?

APRIL  
What?

Tanya gives a desperate shrug. April steps forward, confused, but swords out again.

CUT TO:

53           **INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 16:52**       53       \*

Dorothea steps back from the petals blowing in through the open balcony door. As Charlie speaks, he touches more sections, turning more of the orb blood red.

CHARLIE

"This weapon, never to be used.  
This weapon in which we rest  
ourselves, so that it will never be  
used. This weapon of such  
destruction, it is never to be  
used."

QUILL

Hell's bells, I'd forgotten how up  
themselves the Rhodians were.

CHARLIE

"This weapon to end all weapons."

He places his hands on the last two sections. The entire orb is red now. The souls start to migrate up to it.

Charlie hesitates.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

This is where I declare my  
intention. Who I wish to use the  
weapon against. There's no going  
back from here.

QUILL

(surprisingly soft)  
There's never been any going back,  
Prince.

He glances up at her. The sympathy is very startling.

QUILL (CONT'D)

You are the last Rhodian and I am  
the last Quill. Punish those who  
made us so.

Charlie looks at her deeply. What is he thinking?

CHARLIE

More would die. This planet, the  
souls of every Rhodian who ever  
lived-

\*  
\*  
\*

QUILL

By leaving the Shadow Kin alive,  
you guarantee *billions* more will  
die, on countless worlds.

He glances at Matteusz again.

QUILL (CONT'D)

You would sacrifice your entire  
people for the love of a few?

Charlie is angered at this and looks to challenge her but-

QUILL (CONT'D)  
I don't doubt you love him. I was  
in love once. I know what it looks  
like.

(more intent)  
But you are a Prince. You said  
yourself you have duties beyond  
what is personal.

DOROTHEA

Don't listen to her, Charlie. You  
have to do it *now*.

(intent but unaware of the power of the word)

Be a *hero*.

Charlie glances at Matteusz, wavering. What will he choose?

CUT TO:

INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 16:55 54 \*

Tanya pulls Huw away from the petals, trying to get him moving. April swings her swords into the petals with little effect. Jackie, Varun, Tanya and Ram all huddle by the door. Ram looks out of it.

APRIL  
(on the petals)  
It's not working!

RAM  
They're in the hall, too! We're trapped!

## TANYA

Angle on Varun and Ram.

VARUN  
You didn't tell me there were more  
monsters.

RAM  
You didn't want to know.

VARUN  
I *always* want to know. If the world  
is going to end, in petals or  
shadows, I want to know, son.

RAM  
(realizes something)  
"End in shadows..."  
(to April)  
April!

She turns to him.

RAM (CONT'D)  
The Shadow Kin. They enter worlds  
and kill with shadows.

TANYA  
(gasping)  
That's what Matteusz' text meant!

APRIL  
Yeah? And?

RAM  
And you're their King. Probably.

April looks back at them, getting it.

CUT TO:

55      INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 16:57      55      \*

Charlie staring into the Cabinet. He's about to signal his intention to it, but we don't know what it will be...

Until, with a click, Dorothea puts the gun into the space behind his ear.

DOROTHEA  
Forgive me, but I would rather be  
alive than glorious.

QUILL  
I could take that gun away from  
you.

DOROTHEA  
But in time, do you think?

There's a *thunk* and Dorothea crumples to the ground. Matteusz has struck her on the back of the head with a lamp.

MATTEUSZ  
Even with a gun, you shouldn't turn  
your back on an angry Pole.

He picks up her gun and THROWS it out the balcony. \*

MATTEUSZ (CONT'D)  
(off their reaction)  
I don't like guns. \*

Quill turns to Charlie. \*

QUILL  
Do it. Do it now.

Charlie looks at Matteusz, turns back to the Cabinet, raises his hands over it...

CUT TO:

INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 16:58 56

*April slashes the air back to the Shadow Kin realm. The four 3-D soldiers turn to look at her. Her eyes flash red.*

★  
★  
★

APRIL  
What are you waiting for? You know  
what your King wants.

Terrifying beat, then 1st-stage SHADOWS start pouring through the tear like a river of ink-

CUT TO:

57      INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 16:59      57

Charlie looks into the Cabinet.

CHARLIE  
"I declare unto you my intention. I declare the enemy that endangers all of Rhodia."

He pauses, gulps. Matteusz puts a hand on his shoulder.

...stunningly, so does Quill.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
"I give you my intent."

He closes his eyes, ready to move his hands to the orb...

DOROTHEA  
(leaning up)  
Look!

They turn. The petals from the balcony have inky shadows moving across them.

CUT TO:

INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9. 17:00 58

The petals here are likewise turning to shadow. Our group watch as the petals disintegrate.

★  
★

JACKIE  
What's happening?

APRIL  
My army. They're turning them to shadow.

C/U on the Petals: As they get pierced and destroyed by shadow, just like human victims do, but in miniature.

JACKIE  
How do you have an *army*? What are you going to do with an *army*?

April glances up to Huw. He backs away, comically.

CUT TO:

59           **INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 17:01**       59       \*

They watch out the balcony as the SHADOW spreads across the petals, disintegrating them all.

Charlie lets out a relieved breath, and starts touching the stones to reset the Cabinet-

QUILL  
No!

CHARLIE  
Step away from me, Quill.

QUILL  
You can kill them all!

MATTEUSZ  
That would make him a monster.

QUILL  
(quietly furious)  
When all your people have been killed before your very eyes, *then* you can talk to me about monsters.

Turns to Charlie, who's already closed the Cabinet.

QUILL (CONT'D)  
Trust me when I say, you *will* use it on the Shadow Kin. Maybe not today, but you will.

She leaves, fuming. Dorothea looks to Charlie, kindly again.

DOROTHEA  
She'll get over it.

CHARLIE  
You pulled a gun on me.

DOROTHEA  
You'll get over it.

Smiling, she leaves.

60      **INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, CAVE - NIGHT 9**      60      \*

The 3rd-stage soldiers THROW Corakinus into a CELL MADE OF PILLARS. They close him in.

He immediately beats on the pillars, but they SPARK on his hand, knocking him back. He tries to turn to shadow to flit through the bars, but the sparks flash again. He's trapped. And furious.

CUT TO:

61      **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 17:03 61**      \*

April keeps a gimlet eye on the shadows as they finish blasting the petals. The others look at her in awe.

APRIL  
(to the shadows)  
Back.  
(then)  
Wait.

The shadows hesitate in mid-air.

APRIL (CONT'D)  
Destroy the path here as you go.

They immediately start zooming back into the tear, back to the Shadow Kin Realm, the tear scrambling and COLLAPSING VIOLENTLY as they go.

TANYA  
(to April)  
Dude, you are *totally* a Queen.

April still has her swords out. She turns to Ram. Varun is terrified of her, but Ram steps forward. Varun grabs him-

VARUN  
No! She's an alien now.

RAM  
God, Dad, at least pay attention.

He steps away from Varun and goes to April.

APRIL  
(whispers to him)  
I can feel them. All of them. I can hear them in my head.  
(eye glance around room)  
And everyone's looking at me.

RAM  
(whispers back, smiles)  
You'd be looking at you, too.

APRIL  
I think I might need saving, Ram.

RAM  
Only fair, after you saved the planet. What do you need?

APRIL  
...Can you just... not be afraid of me?

He takes her hand - around the sword that's there - takes the other, pulls her closer, rests his forehead on hers.

RAM  
It's too early to say I love you.

APRIL  
God, yes.

RAM  
But there's already an April-shaped space in my life. I don't want it to go empty.

APRIL  
Where did you learn to talk like this?

RAM  
My dad likes romcoms.

VARUN  
(embarrassed)  
No need to tell the world our business, son.

Ram separates from her. Looks at the swords.

RAM  
You know, I kinda like you with swords...

\*  
\*

Aprils smiles, then suddenly SCREAMS-

CUT TO:

62      **INT. REALM OF THE SHADOW KIN, CAVE - NIGHT 9**      62      \*

Corakinus, still imprisoned, HAS HIS OWN HAND IN HIS CHEST. Blue light streaks everywhere.

He's in great pain as well, but reaching for his heart-

With a last yell, Corakinus YANKS the blazing blue ANCHOR from his chest, flinging it away from him.

CUT TO:

63      **OMITTED.**      63

64           **OMITTED.**

64

65           **INT. COAL HILL SCHOOL, HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY 9, 17:05** 65           \*

April collapses, the swords vanishing back into her hands.

RAM  
April!

He catches her. Her eyes take a moment to focus.

RAM (CONT'D)  
Are you okay?

She leans forward, nods, feels her heart. She opens her hands, grunts, but only two little puffs come from her palms. No swords. They disappear.

APRIL  
We still share the heart, but he cut the new connection. The strong one that-

She glances up to Jackie-

APRIL (CONT'D)  
(panicked)  
Your legs?

Jackie, with effort, moves them again.

JACKIE  
I think we have a lot to talk about.

VARUN  
(to Ram)  
I think we do, too.

TANYA  
(beat)  
I'm glad my mum didn't come.

CUT TO:

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

66           \*

Corakinus staggers to his feet. He calls out between the pillars.

CORAKINUS  
Guard. Guard!

Down the pathway, a 3rd-stage guard turns. But then turns back and keeps walking away.

CORAKINUS (CONT'D)  
(holding his temper)  
No matter. Your King will wait.  
Your King will wait.

We pull back as he sits back in his Cell, looking anything but broken...

CUT TO:

67      **INT. CHARLIE'S HOUSE, CHARLIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 9, 17:07**      67      \*

Charlie closes the Cabinet. It's completely shut down. He backs into Matteusz, taking a hug.

MATTEUSZ  
What would you have done?

CHARLIE  
(beat)  
Would you believe me if I said I didn't know?

Charlie turns around so they're face to face.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
I think I'm lost, Matteusz.

MATTEUSZ  
(loving)  
Then I will find you.

They embrace.

CUT TO:

68      **EXT. APRIL'S FRONT WALK - DAY 9, 17:45**      68      \*

Jackie and Huw approach the front door. April and Ram are behind them, hand in hand.

RAM  
Are you still Queen?

APRIL  
They call you King there, even if you're a woman.  
(shrugs)  
And no, I've lost all the extra powers. It was all so clear for a while and now it's not.

Stops, turns to him.

APRIL (CONT'D)  
I hope I at least slowed them down a bit.

\*  
\*

\*

RAM  
(smiles)  
You were brilliant... King April.

She smiles back, then glances to her parents.

APRIL  
I need to go. I need to remind them  
I'm their daughter.

RAM  
Yeah, same deal with my dad.

They hug. He makes to leave. She holds his hand as he goes, until it trails away. He likes this.

RAM (CONT'D)  
Charlie will be pissed off you  
outrank him now. \*

He leaves. April turns to her parents, makes her way down the walk.

CUT TO:

69 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CARPARK - DAY, 17:50 69 \*

Dorothea walks, homing on in a CLANGING sound. She rounds a corner.

Quill is taking all her anger out on small grey CAR, kicking in dents, smashing in windows. Dorothea watches her, amused.

DOROTHEA  
You do realize that's not my car?

QUILL  
I do now.

She kicks off the wing mirror anyway.

DOROTHEA  
My dear. I am not your enemy.

QUILL  
An enemy is decided not by her intentions, but by her actions.  
Basic rule of warfare.

DOROTHEA  
Did you really think the Governors hadn't taken all these variables into account?

QUILL  
...what?

CUT TO:

70 EXT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S FRONT WALK - DAY, 17:55 70 \*

April faces Huw. He's sheepish but trying to be brave.

APRIL  
I need you to go away now, Dad. I  
need you to do that until we  
contact you.

HUW  
That might be never, though.

APRIL  
It might be. But you gave up having  
that choice.

He gets it. Looks to Jackie, then starts to take his leave.

APRIL (CONT'D)  
(to Huw)  
I'm strong now.

HUW  
So I've seen.

APRIL  
Goodbye.

HUW  
(hopeful)  
For now?

APRIL  
(maybe)  
Goodbye.

He leaves. April turns to Jackie. How are things going to be?

CUT TO:

71 EXT. COAL HILL SCHOOL - CARPARK - DAY, 18:00 71 \*

Quill looks confused.

DOROTHEA  
Solid sixty per cent chance the  
girl would stop the petals.

QUILL  
What?

DOROTHEA  
Seventy-seven per cent chance you  
would try to use the Cabinet for  
your own ends.

QUILL  
How do you-

DOROTHEA

I'd argued it was more like ninety, but there are still men who won't listen to a woman smarter than they are.

QUILL

You... expected this?

DOROTHEA

We did. And in fact, our thinking was that the petals probably had just one aggregate soul between them. Charlie would have only needed to use one soul out of the Cabinet to eliminate them all.

QUILL

(agog)

And you were planning on telling us this when?

DOROTHEA

It would have turned out fine, one way or the other, but now we know quite a lot more about the Cabinet and about young Charlie than we did before.

(looks up to Quill)

And for that, we're grateful.

Quill stares at her, still agog.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)

Our deal still stands. You helped us. We'll help you. Come see me on Monday about getting that thing out of your head.

Leaves, smiling, as a stunned Quill watches her go.

DOROTHEA (CONT'D)

(without looking back)

You still have to do the Parents' Evening, though.

Quill clocks this, annoyed. A bit of metal falls off the car with perfect comic timing, making a clang.

CUT TO:

72      **INT. RAM'S HOUSE, RAM'S SITTING ROOM - EVENING 9, 19:00**      72      \*

Ram's mum comes in from work, surprised to find Varun and Ram making dinner.

JANEETA

What's all this then?

RAM  
Just in the mood to have a family meal.

Janeeta looks to Varun for an explanation.

VARUN  
Really proud of Ram today. Got himself into a scrape, got himself out of it.

JANEETA  
(suspicious)  
What scrape?

VARUN  
Not important. Just know you've got a good young man here.

JANEETA  
Oh, I already know *that*, beta.

They sit to eat, a happy family-

JANEETA (CONT'D)  
Did you see all the flowers today?  
At this time of year.

RAM  
(nervous smile)  
Yeah, global warming, huh?

But Varun glances at his son. Worry shadows his face.

CUT TO:

73      **INT. APRIL'S FLAT, APRIL'S FRONT ROOM - EVENING 9, 19:35    73    \***

C/U on April, looking firm, patient.

APRIL  
Okay?

She's taken Jackie's hands. They look pensive.

JACKIE  
It's going to take a while before I get proper strength back.

APRIL  
You still want to try?

Poignant beat as Jackie looks determined-

Then she STANDS in front of her daughter, for the first time in years. FX shot.

JACKIE  
(smiles)  
You've grown.

\*

Jackie begins to cry.

APRIL  
Oh, Mum-

JACKIE  
It was a violent thing you did,  
April. I had accepted my life.

APRIL  
I know-

JACKIE  
It was full and happy and I was in  
no way less-

APRIL  
I know that too-

JACKIE  
And so suddenly...

Stops, emotional.

APRIL  
All we've got to do is one step.  
Then we can decide on the one after  
that.

JACKIE  
One step.

APRIL  
And then we'll see.

On their faces again as, with GREAT EFFORT, Jackie takes a wobbly but very definite STEP FORWARD.

APRIL (CONT'D)  
(smiling, nearly holding  
her breath)  
One.

END CREDITS.

\*